

Your Saturday Independent: a bigger and better newspaper The Long Weekend

places to ski



The Magazine Seeing is believing: at home with Dolce and Gabbana



Some good news from Africa: Thousands of refugees flood back English top

Going home

It was the outcome everyone wished for but dared not believe would ever come true: 100,000 Hutu refugees were streaming out of Zaire yesterday, filling every inch of the 10km road leading home to Rwanda.

In an instant, the two-year, vice-like grip of the Hutu Interahamwe militia over more than a million refugees in Zairean camps loosened. And the United Nations was saved from a rescue operation that already had failure written all over it.

"The Interahamwe are going," said one returning refugee, Laurenti Nzain-ok, who fled Rwanda in 1994 in the wake of the Hutu genocide of 800,000 Tutsis. "They wanted us to go with them but most of us want to go

As they trudged together with ragged bundles of belongings, a woman was giving birth by the side of the road. "The leaders fled," said an old woman. "And after two years I'm

going home."

The crucial act of defiance finally came yesterday morning when the Interahamwe, architects and overseers of the genocide, started to break up shacks in the Mugunga refugee camp and instructed people to follow them north-west, further into the forests of

For two days, Zairean rebels had pounded the camp from the nearby town of Goma, spurred by the news that the world would not do what was necessary: disarm the militia men and separate them from the refugees who were their meal-ticket and front for attacks into Rwanda, and finally became

their human shields. This time, the masses, intimidated into staying by the occasional lynching and scare stories about Tutsi retribution, did not obey. Many had already trekked for days from other battle-torn refugee camps further north. Hundreds had perished on the way and in the fighting there was no time to bury the dead. Hunger, fatigue and human loss under intensive rebel offensives achieved what two years of gentle UN persuasion had failed to do. The refugees finally decided to take their chances back home.

The international community. forced this week by the Mugunga siege into launching a relief operation, will ed spontaneous combustion. Even as the UN last night moved to authorise an intervention force, one of its greatest challenges was melting away.

Most Western governments understood that a break-up of the camps was vital for regional stability, but none was prepared to risk troops on the ground to dismantle them. The US insisted that neutralising the Interahamwe was not part of the UN mandate. Just how they were going to deliver aid to hundreds of thousands of refugees, held to ransom in a war-zone, was dif-

The home-grown resolution may have come just in time. Yesterday the World Health Organisation announced the first confirmed cases of cholera in Mugunga, which had been cut off from aid for two weeks.

Mugunga represents the largest single return of refugees to Rwanda. But from the start smaller groups had trickled home. So far their reintegration into a country now governed by Tutsis appears to have gone well.

The UN has more than 100 human-rights observers in Rwanda. And while the Rwandan government argues that only those guilty of murder has anything to fear, events yesterday proved

Most refugees were waved home by smiling rebels but 30 Hutu women and children were less lucky. They were ambushed on the outskirts of Mugung hours before the exodus home.

If the refugee dam has indeed burst what exactly is an international military force needed for now? President Clinton said last night that it was still required. The return of the refugees was "very good preliminary news", but, he warned, "we must be prepared ... to have some presence there to facilitate this." There is still an overwhelming need for humanitarian assistance - and the threat of war between Zaire one the one side and

Rwanda and Burundi on the other. Last night Major General Ed Smith, a Vietnam veteran tinned to head the American side of the UN operation. was asked whether there was any work for him to do now. The military man would not be drawn into a political statement. It was a "dynamic" situation he said. But he was grinning

from car to car.



Tens of thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees crossing the Zairean border at Goma back into their country Guide to Zaire, pages 10 and 11 yesterday after fleeing Mugunga refugee camp two days ago Photograph: John Parkin/Reuters

of the form in science

English teenagers are beating the rest of Europe at science but in maths their performance is declining sharply, according to a study to be published this week. Experts say the difference proves teaching methods, not an anti-education culture, are to blame for pupils' poor performance in maths.

When the International Maths and Science Study was last carried out six years ago, results of English 13-year-olds were 3 per cent above the world average. This time, the study found they were 2 per cent below. England was 19th out of 27 broadly comparable countries in maths but 6th out of 27 in science. In a group of nine industrialised countries in algebra and number, it was bottom.

Some commentators have suggested children in countries such as Japan and Korea do better at maths because their cul-ture values, education and hard work. But David Reynolds, of Newcastle upon Tyne University, author of another recent survey of comparisons in maths and science, said: "This study showing that we are doing well in science explodes once and for all the idea that the reason for our poor performance in maths is cultural. It is clearly to do with our school system and our technology of teaching. England used to be at the bottom of the second division. It has now moved into the third."

That three-quarters of lesson time is spent on individual and ence, have had to brush up their group work in England - much knowledge and technique. more than elsewhere - may be particularly damaging in maths. Professor Reynolds believes.

MAKE RECREATIONS

maths questions correctly. Singapore, where pupils scored 79 per cent, was top. The average was 55 per cent. France, Belgium, Switzerland and Ireland all did better than England.

Even the US, which traditionally has lagged behind England, is ahead. In science, by comparison, only Singapore, Japan, Korea and the Czech Re-public did better. In the last study, England was 2 per cent above the average; now it is almost 6 per cent above.

Wendy Keys, one of the study's authors, suggested a reason for the improved science performance might be that more time was being spent on science than 30 years ago. Another explanation may be the in-troduction of the national curriculum, which makes science compulsory in all primary schools. Primary-school chers, many of whom had little experience of teaching sci-

The national curriculum and testing have not had the same effect in maths. Professor Reynolds Nearly 14,000 English pupils believes that is because teaching took part in the survey, which methods, not a centralised curincluded 46 countries. They riculum and testing, are the key answered 53 per cent of the to improved performance.

Predictions galore in Cassandra hunt

Christian Wolmar and John Rentoul

Whodunnit? Which Labour MP had the cheek to anonymously suggest Tony Blair may he putsched by his party next summer? Last night at Westminster, Blair's hounds were in hot, but so far vain, pursuit of shadowy Cassandra, the "senior" Labour MP" who wrote in this week's Tribune newspaper.

The article in the left-wing weekly predicted Mr Blair would be ousted in a 'Palace coup" and probably replaced by Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary.

Trouble-stirring and probably malicious stuff: So who is Cassandra? Suspicion naturally fell in turn on a number of well-known members of Labour's Awkward Squad but on closer examination most chuckling suspects were quickly allowed to escape to freedom. Early candidates included

Austin Mitchell and Tony Banks, the two best jesters on the Labour benches. Mr Mitchell recently wrote an ar-





ticle in the New Statesman likening Mr Blair to Kim-Il Sung, Korea's late strongman, and is so Eurosceptic that he is danger of declaring UDI for Grimsby, his constituency. Mr Banks, is a general trouble- was a happily obscure MP unmaker who has come out in til recently when he criticised cannabis - but eschewing the to a grant-maintained school drug himself – and is so unable and likened to a Tudor Sedgemore got into deep wa-Monarch. But Mr Flynn could to keep his mouth shut that his periods on the front bench nior having entered Parliament have always been out short by his mouth.

Examination of the article



"LONG-WINDED", they all leader said: "We would rather again under his own name. cried. What about Neil Kin- nail the culprit. The only thing nock? Oh, he's no longer an that is giving this thing legs is MP. So suspicion fell on other recent noisemakers. Paul Flynn, another pro-cannabis man. favour of legalisation of Mr Blair for sending his child ney South, who has been in this

in 1987. The braver manhunters de- Recently he published a book ruled both these out. It was far cided to approach His office. A containing salty observations on according to The Independent's too boring and long-winded, spokeswoman for the Labour his parliamentary colleagues, resident Greek scholar.



the mystery. that the views in the article are Sources close to Mr Blair yescertainly not his. Denzil Davies, terday pointed the finger of sus-picion at Brian Sedgemore, the former front-hencher and anti-EMU campaigner was the disaffected MP for Hacksort of trouble before. Mr ter for writing under the name hardly describe himself as se- Justinian in Private Eye and a diary under his own name in the New Statesman in the 1980s.

But Mr Sedgemore denied authorship, and friends say

ruled out for the same reason. The choice of name, however, suggests a failure of judgement by the culprit. Cassandra's had the fate of being expert at prophesying but of never being believed. And she was murdered by Clytemnestra for heing a "pain in the neck",

Howard defeat The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, faced political embarrassment over the release of prisoners for the second time in four months, following a High Court ruling.

Compensation deal Hundreds of British women have won the right to sue for a share of a £17m fund set aside for victims of faulty silicon breast implants, reversing

a decision that only Americ	311S 3e 3
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significant shorts

Airlines seek Benefit fraud higher fares to bill reinforces meet fuel costs war on cheats

World airlines agreed yesterday to demand a 3 per cent rise in air fares to cover the higher cost of aviation fuel.

The International Air Transport Association, which represents 254 airlines around the world, said members decided to apply to their governments for permission to increase their fares globally by 15 December, which would put

them in place for the busy end-of-year travel period IATA said the average price of aviation fuel has risen by 37 per cent since June, and 43 per cent since October 1995.

Internet link to gay group

The vice squad has investigated an Internet site linked to the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movment which is organising today's controversial gay service at Southwark Cathedral, in London

A complaint submitted to Scotland Yard alleged a website providing information about the LGCM had published a poem which was ruled blasphemous in a 1977 court case. The evangelical Reform Movement vesterday called on the Archbishop of Canterbury to cancel the LGCM 20th anniversary service, but Scotland Yard said that no decision had been made on whether to take action.

The Government yesterday announced tough new proposals to combat benefit cheats, including seven-year prison sentences. The Social Security Administration Fraud Bill targets housing benefit and council tax benefit, responsible for a quarter of all benefit fraud, amounting to £1bn a year.

MP challenges exchange fees

Hugh Dykes, pro-European Tory MP for Harrow East has demanded an inquiry by the Office of Fair Trading into the high commission rates charged at Heathrow airport for foreign exchange.

False memory guidelines

Guidelines for psychiatrists and psychotherapists on false memories of sexual abuse are to be published next month. Groups at the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the UK Council for Psychotherapy will recommend stricter rules of conduct during therapy.

Lost childhood.

Saturday Magazine

The Live

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Dozens prepare to leave jail as ruling by the High Court overturns decision on sentencing

loward dealt double court blow

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

preparing to leave jail last night after courts in Britain and Strasbourg delivered a double blow Secretary.

In a test ruling in the High Court in London, three judges opened the way for the immediate release of two prisoners, the freeing of up to 50 more over the weekend, the recalculation of the sentences of at least 800 others - and a potential

compensation bill that could run into millions. Preparations for the releases began after the sentences, overturning a legal interpretation dating from 1982.

In Strasbourg, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that the UK had violated the rights of a Sikh independence campaigner by unlawfully holding him in jail without trial on grounds of "national security" pending deportation to India, where he faced torture and

by backing next week's Private which applied to the longest sen-Member's Bill to outlaw con-tence they received. Until yes-

double defeat came at the end court laid down that all time of what was already a bleak spent by prisoners on remand week. The Court of Appeal should count against concurrent ruled on Wednesday that he must reconsider the naturalisation applications of the Egypt-ian-born Mohammed al-Fayed, chairman of Harrods, and his

brother Ali, who had not been treated fairly. In yesterday's High Court case, Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Blofeld swept away the current rule under which prisoners jailed for more While Mr Howard will seek than one offence could count to regain the political initiative only the period of remand

spiracy or incitement to commit terday's ruling, months of oth-acts of terrorism abroad, the er remand time could not be taken into account at all. The two prisoners who

brought the case, Michelle Evans, 22, who was at Brockhill Prison, Worcestershire, and Paul Reid, 19, at Unley Young Offenders Institution, Rugby. walked free within minutes of the judges declaring they should be freed forthwith.

Soon afterwards, the Sikh activist Karamjit Singh Chahal was celebrating an emotional reunion with his wife Darshan and teenaged children Kirantreet and Dikaramjit after Mr Howard authorised his release from Bedford jail within an hour of the ruling by the Stras-

prison for six years and three months without knowing the allegations against him after a request for political asylum was turned down by the former Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke, out the accusation that he was a security risk meant that his right to challenge his detention in the UK courts was severely limited.

Mr Chahal had been held in

The Strasbourg court said it was unnecessary to consider the "untested but no doubt bona fide" allegations that Mr Chahal was a terrorism risk; the only relevant question waswhether substantial grounds had been shown for believing he would be ill-treated in India. The court ruled by a major-

tation would put him it isk after considering evidence from Amnesty International, the US State Department and the Indian National Human Rights Commission. David Burgess, are very, very pleased. We think it is a courageous decision by the court," adding: "It's as much an indictment of the UK courts as it is of the Home Office."

John Wadham, director of the human rights organisation Liberty, said: "We are delighted by the court's decision, which exposes the supine nature of our legal system. The Government's trump card of 'national securidividual rights.'

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bourg court. Prisoners rejoice after catalogue of mix-ups in the penal system

Patricia Wynn Davies

For the second time in four months, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has been faced with claims of presiding over a shambolic penal system and the political embarrassment of prisoners enjoying the prospect of getting out of jail

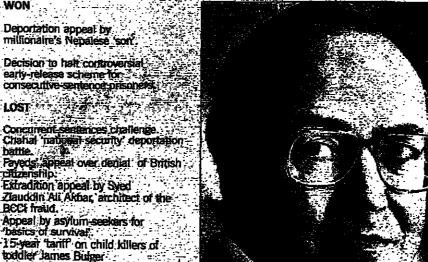
The notion of "early" is wrong. Yesterday's High Court ruling means that, as a matter of law, thousands of inmates on concurrent sentences had their terms fixed too long. But the issue flowed direct-

ly from the fiasco in August, when 541 inmates were wrongly released carly following Prison Service instructions that criminals serving consecutive sentences should have time spent on remand taken off each term, not just one. Mr Howard speedily and

successfully challenged that in the courts, but by then none of the 541 could be recalled and

a number quickly reoffended. Four earlier High Court rulings on the application of the 1967 Criminal Justice Act to concurrent sentences, the first in 1982, had prompted Prison Service lawyers to recommend the controversial scheme for consecutive-sentence prisoners. But the earlier rulings were declared wrongly decided by the court yesterday.

Echoing what the man and woman in the street might have thought, the judges said: "It has in our experience been the practice to assume that all pe-ment that the Prison Service



How the Home Secretary has fared in high-profile cases

riods of custody before sentence, other than custody wholly unrelated to the offences for which sentence is passed, will count against the period of She said "early indications"

sentence to be served." Anticipating yesterday's defeat, the Prison Service ordered governors to press ahead with a recalculation exercise a fortnight ago and, in contrast to the August débâcle, says it has But the figures were swiftly made arrangements to alert

the probation service. Ann Widdecombe, the mmister for prisons, said in a state-

wrongly influenced by media

would be examining the sen-tencing records of all 58,000 prisoners in 135 jails in England

were that 800 serving prisoners would be affected by the change, with about 50 eligible for imminent release when sentence calculations had been

disputed as under-estimates by the National Association of Probation Officers, which said its own inquiries had revealed that up to four prisons alone

might each have 20 prisoners who qualified for immediate release, making a possible total of between 70 and 150. The association also estimates that be-

tween 1,000 and 1,500 prisoners

will qualify to have their sen-

Several more thousand prisoners released over the past decade will now qualify to claim compensation for unlawful imprisonment, subject to a statutory limit on bringing claims of

tences recalculated.

Harry Fletcher, the association's assistant general secretary, of Lords.

potential claims could reach £18m, based on an averag amount of unlawful custody of five to six weeks and a pro rate compensation rate of £25,000 a

Imran Khan, solicitor for Paul Reid, one of the two freed yesterday, said: "I would advise all prisoners to consider care fully whether this decision could apply to them. They may well be entitled to compens Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, said: "The decision is not about prisoners getting a bonus or reward. It is about correcting a long-stand ing unfairness."

The judges highlighted some of the injustices yesterday in ref erences to the four earlier decisions. In one case the applicant had had to serve a year longer than his equally guilty co-defendant; in smaller the fact that the applicant had spent no time in custody for one of her many offences meant she was deprived of the benefit of the time she had spent on re-mand on all the others.

Paul Cavadino, chairman o the Penal Affairs Consortium said: "Today's judgment does not mean that remand periods will be counted more than once.
The grievance of the prisoners who brought this case was that some of their remand time bad not been counted towards their sentences at all as a result of misapplication of the law."

The court refused leave for Mr Howard to go to the House

Scots get the Scone, but Major wants the jam

The Stone of Destiny is handed back to Scotland 700 years after it was taken

The ancient Stone of Destiny was returned to Scotland yesterday amid a mixture of optimistic nationalism, the skirl of bagpipes and the whine of hard-nosed Celtic sceptics.

After 700 years, the coronation stone crossed the River Tweed on its way home, a return engineered by Michael Forsyth. the Secretary of State for Scotland, and John Major, the Prime Minister, in what was seen as either a grand gesture of reconciliation or a pre-elec-

At 11am - one hour late because of a bomb scare - the stone, taken from the Scots in 1296 by a triumphant Edward I. stopped in an Army Land Rover at the centre of the Coldstream bridge which divides Scotland and England. There it was passed from No 7 Compa-

ny the Coldstream Guards to an

escort from the 1st Battalion the

Kings Own Scottish Borderers, who edged it gingerly into Scot-

It was a moving moment wit-nessed by around 500 flag-wav-ing patriots and schoolchildren. The Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion the Argyll and Suther-land Highlanders and the Lowland Band of the Scottish Division struck up "The Return of the Stone", a piece of music written for the occasion by Capt Gavin Stoddart, director of Army bagpipe music at Edinburgh Castle.

For many, it was a moment of intense pride. Edward I took the stone - also known as the Stone of Scone - to further demoralise the Scots after he had crushed them. It had served as the seat on which all Scottish kings had been crowned since 839. According to myth, it had been used by Jacob as his pil-low while in Bethel and had found its way to Scotland via

> sented the start of a new era. The return, however, has not ased everyone. The sense of loss at Westminster Abbey from where the stone was taken and to where it will return for future coronations - is palpable.

tithesis of that demoralisation. "It's a wonderful thing for us," said Eleanor Moffat, own-

er of the nearest Scottish

chairman of the Coldstream

Historical Society, was equally

700 years, something precious

of war is being given back." he said. "That will make all true

benches, George Robertson,

welcomed the return of the

stone – although each was care-

ful not to rouse Scots passions

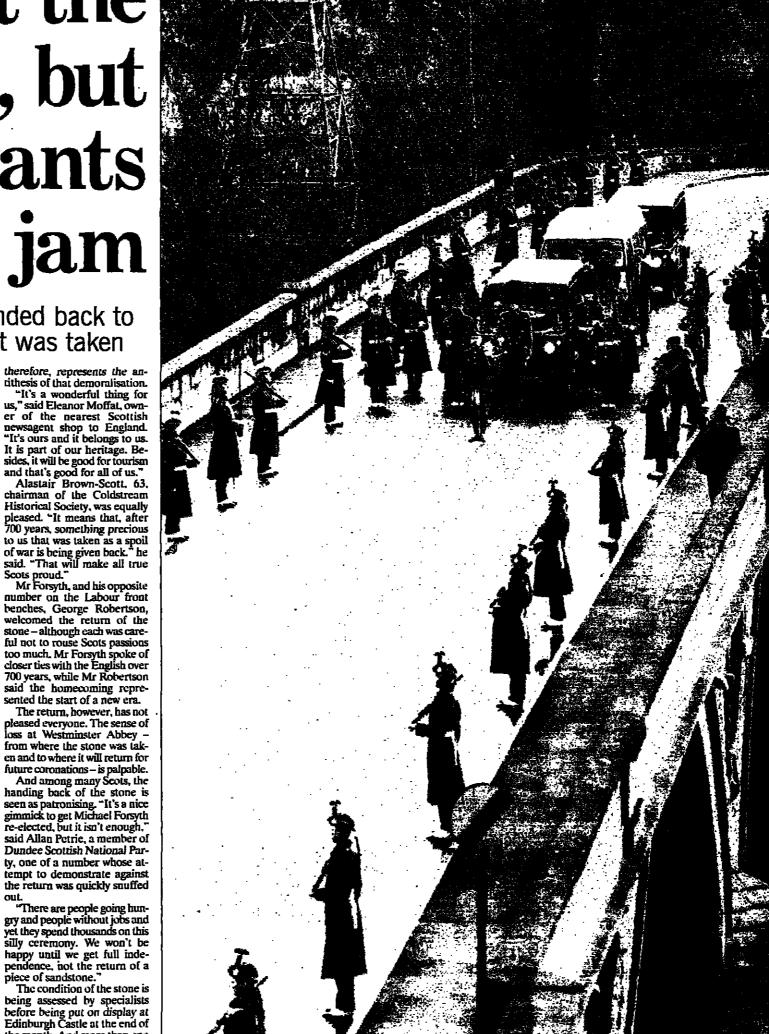
700 years, while Mr Robertson

said the homecoming repre-

And among many Scots, the handing back of the stone is seen as patronising. "It's a nice gimmick to get Michael Forsyth re-elected, but it isn't enough. said Allan Petrie, a member of Dundee Scottish National Party, one of a number whose attempt to demonstrate against the return was quickly snuffed

"There are people going hun-gry and people without jobs and yet they spend thousands on this silly ceremony. We won't be happy until we get full independence, not the return of a piece of sandstone. The condition of the stone is

being assessed by specialists Edinburgh Castle at the end of the month. And more than one canny Scot was quick to point out vesterday that the fee to view the stone will be £5.50. While on show in England, it



Taking the high road: the stone arrives at the Coldstream bridge on the border between Scotland and England to be

handed over to the Kings Own Scottish Borderers Julian Barnes's story on the art of making money

David Lister Art News Editor

The text is by Julian Barnes. The pictures are by the celebrated British colourist Howard Hodgkin. It is only a short story, and the book is not much bigger than a compact disc. But it will set you back £750 for the basic version, and £1,500 for the full-blown, leather-bound version. each one on hand-painted blue paper.

Artists books - books with a painter creating individual prints for each copy - are, not surprisingly, a rarity. Samuel Beckett collaborated with Jasper Johns and more than 20 years ago David Hockney did one of the Grimms' Fairy Tales. but there have been few since.

The man who wants to revitalise the genre and is behind the Barnes/Hodgkin venture, is 46-year-old Simon Draper. In the Seventies he co-founded Virgin Records with Richard Branson. It was he, not Branson, who discovered Mike Oldfield and his Tubular Bells which gave the label its place in music history.

Bored with the music industry, Mr Draper left Virgin in 1992 and set up Palawan Press, which has so far dealt mainly in exclusive mail order. It has published a lavish guide to Fer-

rari cars (£1,000 a copy) and an equallavish guide to Aston Martins (£750). Mr Draper had known Julian Barnes through a shared enthusiasm for wine. They met at a tasting. Both also knew

the former Turner Prize winner Howard Hodgkin, who was eager to see Mr Draper's Sussex mansion, designed by Lutyens. Over dinner they formulated the idea of a collaboration between Barnes and Hodgkin. The book consists of Barnes' short story. Evermore - about an Englishwoman's obsessive visits to her brother's First World War grave - already in his recent collection, Cross Channel.

Hodgkin then spent six months inings differing slightly from volume to vol-ume. Fifty numbered, £1,500 editions eneased in a silver book-cloth portfolio box also contain two Hodgkin prints.

Mr Draper, an art collector, says that even seen just as an investment these books should more than pay for themselves in years to come. But he is uncomfortable at the thought of them being

viewed merely as investments. 'Making money hasn't been the printerspersing his vibrant hand-coloured prints. Each volume is unique, with the shades and density of Hodgkin's colourput it on the wall. It's more accessible. But a book you have to get out. Enjoying it is a more considered activity. This is in some ways an idealistic venture."



Revival: Simon Draper's artists' book with Hodgkin prints

£17m fund for breast implant victims

lan Burrell

Hundreds of British women have won the right to sue for a share of a \$25m (£17m) fund set aside for victims of faulty sili-

Lawyers acting for three American companies which produced them agreed yester day that British women should be entitled to compensation. Some may now win tens of

thousands of pounds.
A court in Alabama last year ruled that only American women should be allowed to claim damages for injuries caused when the implants ruptured or led to silicone-related

Lawyers representing women in London, Nottingham and Sheffield appealed against the decision, along with others outside the US.

In what was described as a breakthrough for the British victims, lawyers representing the US companies, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Baxter and 3M, agreed that the foreign women had a right to compensation and said that a \$25m fund had been ringfenced to pay them.

Paul Balen, of Freeth, Cartwright, Hunt, Dickins, in Nottingham, said of the decision: "I suspect that it will affect thousands of British women but that only hundreds will qualify for compensation because they have to be able to prove the source of the implant and the injury it caused."

Women will not be able to

claim if their implants were provided by Dow-Corning, another American company which was the largest manufacturer of implants. It was the subject of

an earlier global action. So many claimants came forward to sue Dow-Corning that the company made it itself bankrupt rather than face the courts. Victims are still fighting for compensation. British women with a claim against it have until 14 February to claim.

A separate action was brought against the three oth-er companies. In an order to be made by the judge supervising the breast implant settlement. the three manufacturers have agreed to "settle the claims of all foreign claimants'

Only women who have already registered claims as part will be entitled to seek a share of the \$25m fund. An estimated 10,000 British women have

In the UK, 100,000 women have breasts which are not entirely their own. Of these, 60.000 chose to have the extra bits for cosmetic reasons while 40,000 had implants after operations for breast cancer.

Most implants are made of a silicone envelope with a liquid of gel-like silicone filling. Silicone was assumed to be inert until the late-Eighties when evidence emerged in America that it could "bleed" and provoke skin and joint inflammation and diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis.

In the past four years there have been 18 studies of possible links between silicone and certain diseases and none has found a connection. One of the biggest, at Harvard Medical School, ex-amined 87,500 nurses of whom 1,2000 had implants. It found no greater incidence of illness among women who had im-

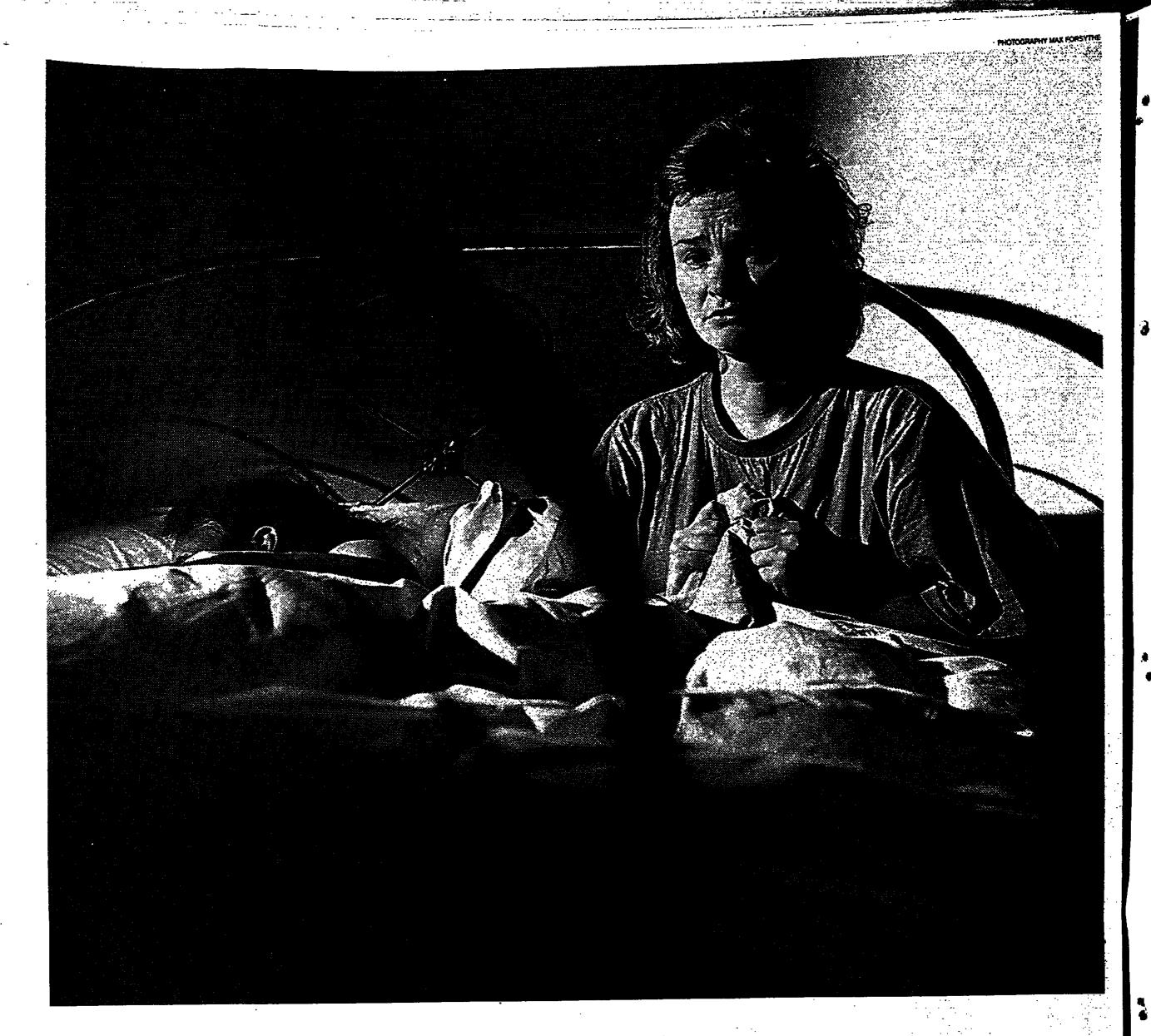
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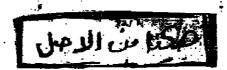
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He's 51, she's 49. They're in constant pain, but their remedy is illegal. It's cannabis

Fordham has a John debilitating disease which is causing his spine to crumble and will eventually leave him in a wheelchair, Aged 51, the former builder also suffers from asthma and emphysema. He is in so much pain that he can't sleep

His wife Ruth, 49, has had three heart operations, a double mastectomy and conquered cervical cancer. She is in constant pain from arthritis and cannot sleep at night.

But despite trying all manner of pills and tablets, medical science can't help them.

Instead, the couple, who live in a one-bedroom council flat in Stockwood. Bristol, turned to an age-old herbal remedy cannabis. It helped ease the pain at night, and reduced their stress during the day.

However, the hope that it once offered has now been taken away after police found four cannabis plants growing among the tomatoes and lettuces in their greenhouse. They both admitted culti-

vating the drug but were given a one-year conditional discharge after Bristol magistrates heard that although doctors had prescribed a cocktail of pills, smoking cannabis was the only way the couple could sleep. Mr Fordham, aged 51, was

forced to stop work five years ago. He takes 10 tablets a day - pain killers, anti-inflammatones and sleeping pills. "The pills are not much good because the sleeping tablets

give me nightmares and I get stomach pains from the antiinflammatories," he said. "But cannabis has been around since Biblical times and at least it gives me a good night's sleep - and you can't

overdose on it either. It helps

me relax and gives me a little in-

spiration to go out and potter around in the garden. "The Government is content to rake in taxes from cigarettes and alcohol even though they ruin people's health. But because we are trying to relieve a hit of paints our own way they jump on is - it just does not

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Joint relief: John and Ruth Fordham from Bristol who have called for a change in the law after being convicted of using cannabis to ease suffering Photograph: John Lawrence

said she began taking cannabis when she was 15 after her second heart operation. "I was unable to sleep and in

a lot of pain - physically and mentally I was going through

would help - and it did. I've used it when I've needed it

He has been married to Ruth mentally I was going through She said her husband start-for 26 years and have two hell and I couldn't handle the ed using it after he also found hecupy," she said. ... himself in great pain. She cannabis again. We got caught, people who are in worse pain Robert Morgan-Jones, said: law-abiding citizens."

try some cannabis to see if it taken the drug for pleasure. Police have warned the couple they will make future checks "But we can't risk growing

and now we will have to cope. "By evening my husband is near enough crying with pain and Mrs Fordham insists they and it's going to be extremely will not cultivate the drug again. difficult. I feel despair for the future - not just for us but for

"A friend asked if I wanted to stressed that they have never we were given a lenient sentence and could benefit if doctors were allowed to prescribe it." GPs have been unable to prescribe cannabis for pain relief since the Misuse of Drugs

Act made it illegal in 1971. The Fordham's solicito

quizzed on UK shooting lason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

'Jackal'

Anti-terrorist officers from Scotland Yard are to question "Carlos the Jackal", once the world's most wanted man, about the shooting of a leading businessman in London more than two decades ago. The Metropolitan Police officers have travelled to Paris where he s awaiting trial.

"Carlos", Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, 47, is wanted for the 1973 shooting of Joseph Sieff, then president of Marks & Spencer and vice-president of the Zionist Federation in

Mr Sieff was attacked at his home in St John's Wood, north London. He survived thanks to exceptionally strong teeth which reduced the bullet's impact. and to his wife, who turned him over on his stomach to stop him choking. He was paralysed for a time, but recovered almost fully and lived for nine years.

Carlos reportedly told Al Watan al Arabi, a Paris-based magazine, in 1979 that he had been the gunman. "I usually fire three times around the nose. he said. "But ... only one bul-let went off, though I fired three times."

Carlos allegedly hid the gun at the west London flat of a Basque woman, one of several girlfriends in London, where it was later found.

A Scotland Yard spokeswoman said: "We have officers in France liaising with the French police in connection with a man in custody in France. This is part of an on-going inquiry into terrorist activities in the United Kingdom in the Police sources discounted

suggestions that the action had been prompted by the release of a new book about Carlos. It is understood that the family of Mr Sieff have been pressing the police to make further inquiries. There was no immediate sug-

gestion that Carlos would face charges in Britain, however. The Venezuelan-born selfstyled revolutionary is accused of killing at least 83 people. He

was captured in Sudan in 1994

up to 15 murders.

s awaiting trial in Paris for

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Francophile Blair fails to charm the French

Chirac support on working hours, but 'too inexperienced' say commentators

Anthony Bevins and Mary Dejevsky

French President Jacques ness community combined the Chirac yesterday joined in the British election battle over Europe, telling Tony Blair that there was no question of him helping John Major to overcome the 48-hour Working Time Directive.

Mr Chirac told the Labour leader during a private meeting in Paris that he had been baffled by British reports that he was willing to support Mr Major's campaign against the directive during the current inter-governmental talks.

With Mr Major threatening further confrontation in his demand for a reversal of the directive, Mr Blair yesterday used his visit to Paris to present Labour as the party of Europe

But France, as Mr Blair discovered, is not an easy nut for a British politician to crack, not even if he speaks good French, sounds "European", looks presentable and is impecc-

ably briefed - as Mr Blair was. His set-piece speech at lunch with the cream of the Paris busisocial concern and Euro-enthusiasm of a Gaullist president. with some Euro-caution that would not have been out of place in a speech by Mr Major. However, Mr Blair staked out

the pro-European approach that would be taken by Labour in the run-up to the election. saying there was little chance of successful exchanges between Britain and its EU partners while relations were so "negative and marked by distrust". The Labour leader said that

it was unequivocally in Britain's interest to be part of Europe, constructively engaged, and playing a full part.

That large and growing part of the British Conservatives and their allies that want Britain out of Europe are playing dangerous games with our national interests, under the pretence of advancing it," he said. But he also added the nec-



Side by side: The Labour leader, Tony Blair, makes a point to President Chirac at the Elysee Palace

on the British electorate - that he would stand up for British interests, "wherever they are shall do it. But I shall not seek wants me to."

essary rider—with a weather eye threatened". If I believe dis- isolation for its own sake... I am agreeing with our partners is the pleased to say there is no sig-correct course," he said, "I nificant element in my party that

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Mr Blair faithfully repeated prompted speculation that he the long-standing formula on Labour's approach to the single currency, which last night

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was becoming hostile. But Labour has long said what he told his Paris audience: that, in principle, there were advantages, but a Labour government would need to be convinced that the economic conditions would allow it to succeed - otherwise the risks were

As for the Paris reaction, to British members of his audience, Mr Blair's New European-ism' sounded daringly Continental.

However, to French cars, at least those of the French

Gearing up for parliamentary elections in 18 months' time. they are embracing a highly traditional programme of renationalisation, state subsidies, and higher social benefits. Like Mr Blair, they have a good chance of winning Mr Blair spent 45 minutes with Mr Chirac, and half an

serves to win."

hour with the prime minister. Alain Juppe, both signal honours for an Opposition leader.

Europe still sounded gradging.

single currency, you said you would put Britain's national and economic interest first. Are:

there not other people's inter-

ests to be considered too?"

very disappointed," said one.

Too young, far too young, and

not enough experience. How

many ministerial posts has he

held?... well then, how can he

be an effective prime minister?"

"Clearly a brilliant young politician, said another, "but he'll only get in because the

Tories lose, not because he de-

As Mr Blair and New Labour

glide into the mainstream of late

20th century politics - globali-

sation, deficit-cutting, sound

economic management and.

governments that "enable"

rather than govern - France's

Socialists are moving rapidly in the opposite direction.

asked one questioner. How did they find him? *I'm

French doubts were clear. Speaking of Europe and the

Lunch with the premier financial daily, Les Echos, was followed by meetings with the Socialists leader, Lionel Jospin, and the head of the Socialist parliamentary group and former establishment, what he said on prime minister, Laurent Fabius.

Mother jailed for breaking baby's legs

A woman who broke her my mind the fact that a prison 'ughy" baby daughter's legs and then tried to suffocate the child was jailed for four years yesterday.

Four months after giving birth to triplets, Tyabo Bishi systematically abused and ill-treated her daughter Gabrielle, often leaving her wearing soiled clothes and in a cold room while doting on her

At one stage, social workers took the child into care, Judge Stephen Waller was told at Snaresbrook Crown Court. east London. Six months later they agreed to return the oneyear-old to Bishi, hoping that she would at last be able to bond with her daughter.

But almost immediately, Bishi broke the Gabrielle's legs. The painful injuries remained undetected for two weeks, until Gabrielle was taken unconscious to hospital with a "heart block" - caused when 42-year-old Bishi spent several minutes trying to

suffocate her. But she panicked at the sight of the baby's limp body, and began screaming for help. Sentencing Bishi, of Link Street, Lower Clapton, east

London, who was convicted last month of three charges of cruelty, the judge told her that he had no option but to impose a substantial jail sentence. It was clear, he said, that after giving birth to triplets she treated her young sons "perfectly well" but was

"consistently cruel" to her daughter.
"In other people's care she blossomed. In your care she failed to put on weight and

evidence was that you thought

sentence will deprive your two sons of your company. But I must bear in mind recent legislation in Parliament regarding cruelty to children and also take into account public concern in cases of this

The court heard that Bishi, who also has two older children, had worked for 10 years in a nursery school and had a lot of experience in looking after children. But after the she completely failed to bond with Gabrielle and "wilfully"

injured her. Emma Gluckstein, for the prosecution, said Gabrielle's life could not have been more different from that of her baby brothers, who were always dressed in clean clothes and kept warm.

A health worker who tried to help Bishi look after her daughter said the woman once told her: "Don't give that monkey my boys' food."

The court heard that Gabrielle was first admitted to hospital with a hernia when she was just two months old. A few months later, she was back again, after social workers found her limp, dehydrated and with a bloodshot

Soon afterwards, Gabrielle was placed with foster parents. But not long after being re-united with her mother, the baby was taken unconscious to hospital in what Bishi's defence accepted was a "life threatening" incident.
Tests showed the child had

suffered a heart block, which doctors decided was caused by her being suffocated for "two to three minutes". The court heard that

this little girl was ugly."

The judge went on: "I have very much in the forefront of made a full recovery.

Gabrielle was now back with foster parents and had since made a full recovery.







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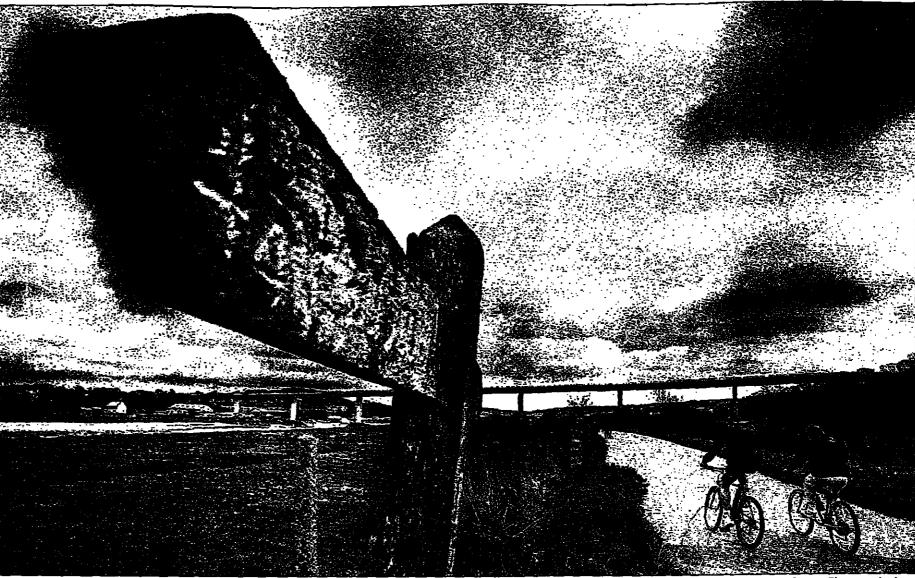
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New rail line will destroy heritage trail for just two trains a week



On your bike: The plan to rebuild a railway along the Camel Trail would spoil prospects for cyclists and walkers on one of Cornwall's most popular paths

Almost £700,000 is to be spent on restoring a railway line to be used by only two or three trains a week and which will destroy part of a tourist attraction.

Residents near Bodmin in north Cornwall are planning a legal challenge against the ministerial decision because the scheme to restore the line, promoted by a company in which the local Liberal MP is a shareholder, was twice turned down by a planning inspector.

The decision by John Watts,

the transport minister, has further baffled those living near the former Bodmin and Wenford line because there is only one possible user, English China

whether it will make use of it. The controversy sets two environmentally friendly Government policies against each

other, transferring freight from road to rail and encouraging cycling and walking. Bringing back trains would take six miles out of the Camel Trail, a 17-mile walk along a disused railway. The trail attracts 350,000 cyclists and walkers per year.
The £1.37m scheme is

proposed by a rail preservation society, the Bodmin and Wenford Steam Railway, which says that the line would be only

Paul Tyler, the MP for North Cornwall who is a shareholder in the society, says he has "made no representations either way. However, one resident,

lorries a day would be taken off Gabrielle Mounder, who lives next to the line says: "If he were representing local views, he ould be opposed to the line."

the road. "To destroy a big tourist attraction for such small traffic is just not worthwhile." able for a freight facilities grant

Another opponent, Richard case around £685,000. English China Clays did not appear at either of the two planning in-Moore, says that only around 20 quiries which rejected the scheme. But the company has stressed it will only use the line if it is viable. Mike Ripley, the logistics director, said: "We are absolutely neutral. We will only use the line if the cost is the same price or cheaper.

Roger Webster, manager of he steam railway company aid: "We realise it would dam ge the Camel trail but it would take traffic off the roads."

Ms Mounder said: "They really are a bunch of train nuts who want to play with their trains. They want to boast that they are the first private preservation railway to run freight."

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Lib Dems face cashfor-lunch scandal

Steam days: The bodmin to wadebridge line in 1834

The chances of a Nolan Committee probe into party political funding increased yesterday after the Liberal Democrats were accused of offering companies a "cash for contracts"

In a letter sent out last July, the party invited business contacts to a party conference lunch at which they could meet Liberal Democrat councillors.

The letter left little to the imagination, saving: "These councillors all control a council. solely or with the assistance of another party.
"The cost of attending the

lunch is £195 for each attendee. A list of companies attending will be published and mailed to all Liberal Democrat councillors to each attendee."

As for the opportunities such contacts might open up, the letter said: "An average district council spends over £300,000 on assurance ... many thousands on construction... The spectra of opportunities cover every subject from paper clips to plastic

Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, said yesterday: "The Liberal Democrat Party has been caught with its hand in the till. For the Liberal Democrats to demand that businessmen pay £195 so as to have access to preferential information about council contracts is a clear case of cash for contracts.

Saying the letter represented the "worst sort of sleaze". Mr Mawhinney called on Liberal (5,000 plus) throughout the country and a leading council-down to provide Lord Nolan's cover "administration costs".

for contact list will be provided Committee on Standards in Anthony Bevins Public Life with details of all contacts and contracts that had come from the lunch.

> will do that. Perhaps it should go to the Nolan committee." But as Mr Ashdown himself said later, any investigation by Lord Nolan - which the Liberal Democrat leader appeared willing to instigate - would need to take in similar operations by the Conservative and

¬I hope on this occasion they

Labour parties. Mr Ashdown said: "On the face of it, this is exactly what every other party does; it's exactly in line with the normal practice ... but if there is any doubt about this. I am perfectly happy that the party should put this before Lord Nolan.

However, a party statement later said that the £195 was not

Labour offers £2,000 package to jobless

A £2.000 personal package to help hundreds of thousands of long-term unemployed people back to work was introduced by Labour education spokesman. David Blunkett, yesterday. He told a conference in Not-

tingham that a Labour government would set up pilot schemes to offer three choices to people who had been un-employed for more than a year. They would be offered "a personal job account" and three six-month routes from welfare

to work, financed by the mon-

ey that would otherwise be

spent on benefits and schemes such as Training for Work. It is estimated that the notional account, which could be topped up by European money in unemployment black spots, could be worth an averweekly, not in a lump sum.

Mr Blunkett said the three back-to-work options were: Neighbourhood Match, offering work experience and skills training for people on local regeneration schemes; Learning for Work, offering education for a work-related qualification; and Business Start, giving assistance for people to start their own

He said each pilot scheme would be carefully appraised. "especially its ability to yield net savings to the public purse".

But Mr Blunkett added that additional action would have to be taken to help people who had been out of work for more than two years, "For them, we shall offer Job Plus - this will be a regular private-sector job, plus training, including an element of employer rebate, "he said. "The age £2,000 over the six-months. rebate would be funded by the its of the privatised utilities."

Mr Blunkett said a similar programme had been tried with the Tories' Workstart pilots, which had had the greatest take-up amongst smaller companies. However, smaller companies are less likely to be able to provide the training needed to equip the employee with the skills needed to move into unsupported employment.

That is why we are proposing a more substantial rebate ... we have suggested £75 per week for six months when taking on somebody unemployed for more than two years - insisting that training should be a key element.

He said: "We need to be flexible ... putting together a range of options to run side by side, adding up to a radical new approach to tackling long-term

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Holly's showy display foretells a long, hard winter

Environment Correspondent

Much of Britain is experiencing a bumper crop of holly berries following two consecutive hot, dry summers. The berries are at their best at the moment. The profuse display is said to be the sign of a hard winter to come. although no one has a convincing explanation for how the plant can

prophesy.
John Lanyon, who looks after part of the national collection of holly varieties at the Royal Horticultural Society's Rosemoor, in north Devon, said: "They look at their best at the moment, but by Christmas most of the berries will have been eaten by birds.

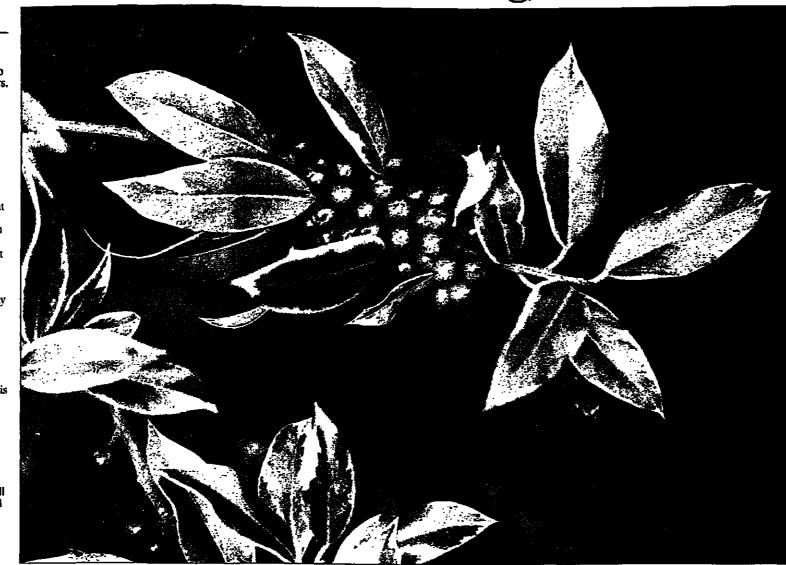
"If you want a good display for Christmas cut the sprigs off now and keep them dipped in water in a cool

place."
The hot summer of 1995
enabled the hollies to build up their food stores and set plenty of flowers in spring this

Then a second hot, dry summer this year has served to ripen them well and turn them deep red, according to Mr Lanyon.

Yesterday the Forestry Commission said that 1996 had been an excellent year all round for the fruits, nuts and berries of trees.

The one exception is the oak, which produced a huge crop of acoms last year but a much smaller one



Ripe for the picking: Consecutive hot summers have produced a profusion of holly berries throughout Britain

Photograph: Herbie Knott



Burnt-out teachers forced to carry on

Education Correspondent

Government plans to curb an explosion in early retirements from schools have been dismissed as "brutal" by the teaching profession. Head teachers and classroom teachers have condemned the moves, saying it will lead to more classes being taught by de-motivated, in-efficient and expensive staff.

The Government retorted ast night that teachers had no right to regard enhanced pension payments as one of the perks of their job. Last year, more than three-quarters of those who left the profession went between the ages of 50 and 60, at a cost of £480m.

Yesterday, head teachers claimed the plan to cut early retirements from 13,000 per year to 9,750 within two years was no more than a ruse by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to cut spending before this month's budget. They said the Treasury would save £100m immediately by making teachers' employ-ers responsible for part of their pension payments.

David Hart, general secretary

of the National Association of Head Teachers, said teachers would be forced to carry on, despite being "demoralised, de-motivated and depressed."

"This money will go into the treasury pot and will be used to finance tax cuts," he said. Tom Weston, a member of the association's national coun-

cil and head of Shavington Primary School, near Crewe, in Cheshire, said that at 56 he and many of his colleagues who had put off early retirement would regret staying on be-

yond 50.
"We stayed because we love the job. We paid voluntary con-tributions to enable us to go with a full pension at 55, 56 or 58. I think this is immoral and I feel very bitter about it," he said.

The Liberal Democrats' education spokesman, Don Foster, backed teachers last night, saying the Government had caused a recruitment crisis and on to cope with it.

"The Government expects more and more of teachers with less and less. It is no wonder there is such an increase of demoralised teachers suffering stress-related illnesses and takng early retirement," he said. Labour said simply that

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We have the money to hand.

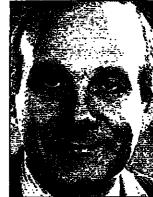
QUOTING REF 93004/321N (Typical ecomple: If you barrow £4,000 over 48 months at 14,996 APR, monthly repayment is £109,38 and the usual amount payable is £5,250,24

and discuss the problem. The David Blunkett, has called for action to be taken over an aimost tenfold increase in early retirements since 1978.

However, a spokesman for the Department of Education and Employment said teachers should not regard early retirement as part of the terms of

their employment.
"Why should teachers be treated as a special case and be allowed to retire early? Early retirement was never intended to be a right or even a benefit. Too many high quality teachers have been lost," he said.

Premature retirement would not be ended by the Government's proposals, he said. Funding for employers assumed they would continue at 75 per cent



David Hart: 'Savings finance Tory tax cuts'

He denied that insufficient effort was being made to attract new graduates into the profession. Wage rates for teachers had risen by 59 per cent since 1979, compared with 47 per cent for all non-manual workers.

He said it was "not realistic or sensible to seek to recruit huge numbers of graduates in a few years. That would just ... leave us facing the same problems in 30 years' time."

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers also attacked the plans, saying it would make it more difficult for sick teachers to get ill-health retirement. Sue Johnson, head of the

union's pensions department, said ministers should look at why young graduates did not seek to go into teaching. "It can-not be in the best interests of pupils for them to be taught by teachers chained to their jobs to the bitter end," she said.



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Mission's first goal to stop killing

Kinshasa

eastern Zaire in the coming days will have two principal objectives. The first will be to estabregion of conflict so that humanitarian aid can be distributed to hundreds of thousands of refugees and civilians displaced by fighting. The second aim will be to ensure the continued flow of refugees returning home to Rwanda.

The unexpected exodus of hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees from Mu-gunga, until yesterday the only refugee camp remaining open in eastern Zaire, will make the job of the aid organisations and of the intervention force considerably easier. The refugees have themselves opened up a corridor along which to return home. It will now be possible to distribute large quantities of aid to the returnees inside Rwanda. away from the war zone.

However, the majority of the refugees (mostly Rwandan but also Burundian) and thousands of Zairean citizens remain hidden in the hills and forests of eastern Zaire. They are separated from help by the continuing conflict and by the inaccessibility of the terrain.

It is a month since fighting between the Zairean army and

Dryer Section

Calender Rolls

fleeing their camps and civilians The multinational intervention to leave their homes. More force due to be dispatched to than a million approoted people are estimated to have taken to the jungle in eastern Zaire. Little is known about their condilish a security presence in the tion, but hunger, thirst and disease - including cholera - are Zaireau government. undoubtedly taking their toll.

Initially launched to resist persecution by the Zairean au-

John Lichfield

The murderous autagonism be-

tween Hutus and Tutsis in

Rwanda and Burundi is not a

tribal conflict. It is not, properly

speaking, an ethnic conflict. By

all the most common definitions,

Hutus and Tutsis are the same

people, which makes their vio-lent history even more tragically

partly to blame. The differ-

ences between the two commu-

nities were greatly emphasised

by the European invaders of Rwanda and Burundi, first Ger-

mans then Belgians, as an in-strument of colonial rule. Hutus

and Tutsis have the same lan-

guage; the same religion; the

And yet, outsiders may be

bensible to outsiders.

Banyamulenge community thorities, the Banyamulenge have been joined by fighters forced the refugees to start campaign quickly gained a dynamic with much wider reaching regional implications. With the support of Rwanda's Tutsirouted the Zairean army. Bucused of involvement by the

troops have withdrawn across

The difference between

a Hutu and a Tutsi

ter-mingled for centuries on

the same land, in the most

densely populated part of sub-

Before the coming of the Eu-ropeaus, the minority Tutsis were mostly, but not all, aristo-

cratic herders of cattle; the ma-

jority Hutus were mostly, but not

all, peasant tillers of the soil.

According to one theory, the Ilutsis were a distinct group

which arrived later than the

Hutus, living peaceably along-

According to other studies,

there is no proof that the two

were ever distinct peoples; they

may have simply evolved into different social classes or

HERE'S ONE

OF THIS PAPER'S

BEST STORIES

Saharan Africa.

toppling the regime of Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Engaging the insurgents are dominated army, the rebels Hutu, some indigenous but mostly Rwandan militants who rundi and Uganda also stood achave been based in the refugee camps established following the 1994 Rwanda genocide. The Now that the Rwandan Rwandan Hutu refugees have been intimidated into staying so

Africa. But the passionate ha-

nda by politi-

fire before the deployment of the multinational force. The nations contributing to the force have no wish to engage

ticularly around Goma, which

has been in Tutsi rebel hands for

more than two weeks, diplo-

matic efforts are concentrating

on securing some form of cease-

in the fighting or to foreibly dis-arm the Rwandan Hutu militias. Yesterday's mass migration of refugees back to Rwanda was the first indication that the Interahamwe are beginning to lose their stranglehold over the exiled masses. As fighting closed in around Mugunga, the fleeing militias ordered the refugees to follow them into the Zairean bush. It seems almost none complied with the order. Committed to regaining their

Despite the stereotypical variation in appearance – tall homeland by force, the Interapologists say they are ethnicalthe former Rwandan army have for the past two years been a source of instability to Rwanda indistinguishable. The oft-quoted difference in height and the region. Until all the - by no means universal - is roughly the same as the differrefugees return home and the ence between wealthy and poor Hutu extremists are disarmed, Europeans in the last century the threat of long-term unrest

(an average of 12 centimetres). So why do they hate each other so much? There is an element The bulk of refugees which has fled to the interior of Zaire seems to have become disgree of economic competition in persed over a large area. The last food supplies they received the most crowded part of Black before leaving the camps are betreds result from 30 years of lieved to have run out a week ago. A humanitarian catastrophe is feared if food and medicines cannot be delivered soon.



Outward bound: US Air Force personnel board a C-5 transport in Fairfield, California

Which military units will be going in to help

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent

Reconnaissance teams from the are guarding are threatened. Western nations leading the international intervention in eastean Zaire have begun arriving in central Africa. The first United States teams arrived on Thursday and the first British recon- committed to providing troops naissance team, 43-strong, was due to arrive in Nairobi at 6.30 last night, having flown from

Brize Norton in Oxfordshire. The intervention force is deploying under Chapter Seven of the United Nations Charter, in an "enforcement" rather than a peace-keeping role. The troops will concentrate on guaranteeing the delivery of hufire back if they or those they Of the 75 nations represent-

ed at the UN meeting in New York as yet only Canada, the US. Britain, France, Spain and six African countries appear The headquarters of operation

"Phoenix Tirsk" will be Goma the major airfield and centre of refugee movement. Yesterday, 10,000 refugees from the five camps around Goma were reported to be moving back through the town and south-east into Rwanda, the first of an estimated 300,000-400,000. The operation will be commanded by

manitarian aid and helping the 1st Canadian Division, under refugees return home, but will General Maurice Baril. Canada General Maurice Baril. Canada is sending a force of 1,500 in all.

US troops will also head for Goma. About 1.000 US troops are expected to be deployed on the ground; another 2,000 to 3,000 are expected to be based in Uganda and Kenya. The US will probably provide the majority of the air transport.

Britain and France are like ly to secure the airport at Bukavu. Britain is planning to send the headquarters of 5 Airborne Brigade, troops from 1st Battalion the Parachute regiment and 45 Commando, Royal Marines. Ministry of Defence sources said yesterday the British force could reach 3,000.

Children suffer in Zaire crisis

Will you help?

s the terror continues in Eastern Zaire, over a million people are fleeing for their lives. Among them are countless children who are hungry, vulnerable and terrified.

Aid agency Children's Aid Direct believe that the only lasting solution is for the Rwandan refugees to return home voluntarily. Executive Director David Grubb says "until the refugees can return home safely to Rwanda our priority is to send emergency aid to them."

For two years Children's Aid Direct have been helping families in Rwanda to return to normal community life. They need your support today to help keep the refugees alive and to provide families returning home with the seed. tools and healthcare they need to rebuild their lives.



Vulnerable children need your help today

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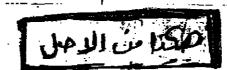
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Recycling

soldiers to help save the refugees

Tutsis were told to leave or die

When rebellion began suddenh to sweep through eastern Zaire last month, the Banyanudenge. Tutsis who had lived in the region for generations, were reported to be responsible.

It now seems likely that while the Banyamulenge were launching an insurrection in south Kivu, a number of other non-Tutsi groups, with a shared hatred of Zaire's President Sese Seko Mobutu, were starting rebellions further north.

The provinces of Zaire have a history of launching revolts against Kinshasa

The Banyamulenge were fighting for survival. Local discrimination against them had escalated with the arrival of 2 million Rwandan Hutu refugees in 1994. After murdering 800,000 of their Tutsi countrymen, the Hutu militias brought their racist hatred with them. Their presence gave courage to local politicians who, only weeks before the uprising, had warned the Banyamulenge to leave eastern Zaire or die.

Despite Rwandan government denials that its troops were tighting alongside the rebels in Zaire, the Zairean

The Rebels

Banyamulenge would be expected to receive military and financial support from Rwanda. Some Banyamulenge fought in the Rwandan Patriotic Front which brought the Rwandan Tutsis to power in the wake of the genocide in 1994.

But to ensure that the Zairean refugee camps, used by Hutu militia to launch attacks, were swept from its border, the certainly took advantage of the discontent within Zaire. Many non-Tutsi Zaireans also

hated the refugee camps. The arrival of so many people turned the local economy upside down. The Banyamulenge are, in

fact, just one of at least four political groups which have formed the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, which speaks for the rebels. Its aim appears to be Zaire's national regeneration, not the annexation of castern Zaire to a greater Tut-si homeland with Rwanda, as President Mobutu has alleged.

Laurent Desire Kabila, one of the rebel leaders, is not a Tutsi hut a Marxist - a secessionist from Zaire's fiercely independent Shaba province. He and his province have a history of uprisings against Kinshasa. The soldiers in Goma this week come from Shaba and Kasai - also almost autonomous from Kinshasa – as well as Kivu.

With the international community refusing to disarm the Interahamwe - the Hutu militias who prevented refugees



returning home - it is likely that Major-General Paul Kagame, Rwanda's vice-president, saw the potential for a homegrown solution in the growing discon-tent with Mr Mobutu.

Mr Mobutu's treatment in Europe for prostate cancer may also have presented Rwanda with an opportunity. During his 31-year rule the country has collapsed. Nationhood is a hard idea to foster among 250 Janguage and ethnic groups: it is impossible when corruption and mismanagement have ensured that communications in a country twice the size of France, and with enormous mineral resources have disappeared.



Airfields which may be or "cockroaches", were con-

'Nazi' militia that incited genocide

The Interahamwe - "those who stand together" - is a civilian militia, created by Rwanda's former ruling Hutu élite before the 1994 genocide of 800,000 mi-nority Tirtsis, along with moderate Hutus.

The Interahamwe extremists incited the slaughter. Those who met them, wielding machetes at road blocks during the killing spree or later when they led the Hutus into exile in Zaire and assumed control of the refugee camps, compare them to the Nazis.

Just as the Nazis disseminated propaganda against the Jews, the Interahamwe was fed - and fed others - a diet of anti-Tutsi propaganda. It played on deep-seated fears. Under Belgian colonial rule the minority Tussis were the educated élite and the Hutus mostly secondclass citizens. The Hutus seized power before independence in 1959, killing tens of thousands of Tutsis. Many Tutsis fled to Uganda and and there were fre-

quent pogroms against those who remained. The Rwandan Patriotic Front, formed by the Tutsi exiles, fought the Hutu government from 1990. By 1994, a power-sharing agreement seemed likely but the Hutu government was playing a double game. The Interahamwe was strengthening and the country's radio stations were fostering hate; warning that the Tutsis,

spiring to once again enslave On the evening that the The Hutus

enocide started - precipitated, finally, by the death in a plane crash of the Hutu President, Juvenal Habyarimana - a Kigali radio station broadcast the message "Tutsis need to be killed".

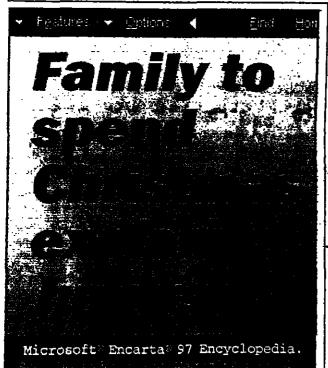
The Interahamwe started work. In exile, the Hutu militias turned UN refugee camps into military bases from which to at-tack Rwanda, which now has a Tutsi-led government. They taxed their two million refugees.

They taxed refugees to buy weapons and lynched those who tried to go home

many employed by UN associated organisations, to buy weapons and lynched those who tried to go home.

Analysts put the Interahamwe's current strength as high as 70,000, when combined with former members of the Rwandan army in exile.

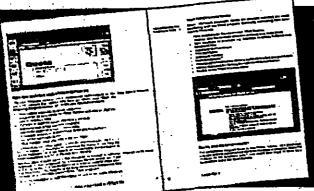
The would-be international rescuers have been insisting that disarming the Interahamwe and separating them from the refugees was not part of their mandate. They appeared to miss the point. Without that separation there is little hope for





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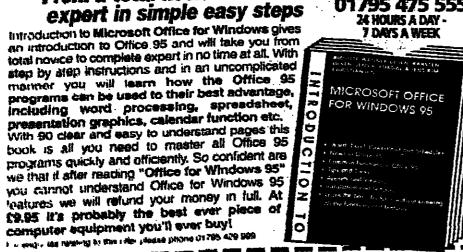


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A religion divided: Intolerance of the secular by the exclusive ultra-orthodox is intensifying power struggles within Judaism

US Jews fear Israel is casting them adrift

Tim Cornwell

All the uncertainties of American Jewry, at a time when the Jewish world is rapidly changing, seemed on display at the annual convention of the Council of Jewish Federations in Seattle this week

As one of the two biggest fund-raising organisations, it funnels an estimated quarter of a billion dollars annually to Jewish causes in Israel and the United States. But while delegates watched cheery videos of teenagers living the "Israel experience", some speakers argued that the differences between the American diaspora and the Jewish state have never been wider.

The old rallying cries - poor, struggling Israel and the plight of oppressed Jews around the world - have faded, it is said.

In a side room, the journalist JJ Goldberg signed copies of his book Jewish Power. It explains how the Jewish lobby's clout became the envy of other minority groups, such as American Indians and Asians. establishing an aid pipeline for Israel and reserving 40,000 visas for Jewish refugees.

At the same time, Mr Gold-berg described the theme of this year's meeting as "insecurity". Leaders of the 5.5 million Jews in the US are acutely aware of surveys showing that more than half their children will marry outside their faith, and only onequarter will raise their own :hildren as Jews.

There are increasing difficulties in relations between the diaspora and Israel. Benjamin

Minister, was due to speak at the conference, but he cancelled his trip citing urgent negotiations with the Palestinians. Speaking by satellite, he tried to reach out to a group that is clearly wary of his leadership and unhappy with his politics.



greatest threat to Jews'

The response was tepid at hest. "There is real anxiety that even though he has legitimate security concerns, they may obstruct the peace process, and American Jews are pretty solidly behind it. Howard Bloom. of Omaha, Nebraska, said.

Mr Netanyahu spoke of a "silent holocaust" from assimilation, which had taken over from anti-Semitism as "the greatest threat to our continued life". He called for a "human airlift" of young Jews to Israel to imbue them with Jewish values.

His tone was combative over concessions in Hebron as he described it as a place not with 400 Jews living there now but with 4,000 years of Jewish history.

posed to defend the hills that we are supposed to vacate are the worried in the war, we feel the very police that used their rifles on our people", he said.

Mr Netanyahu spent some time, however, dismissing as "rumour" the fears about a proposed new law in Israel. The bill, pushed by Israeli conservatives, would give Orthodox rabbis the sole right to perform conversions of non-Jews.

The issue has taken on enormous symbolic importance for the majority of practising US and reform congregations who follow a more liberal interpretation of the Torah, and feel their beliefs are being slighted. They fear that Israeli citizenship rights for themselves and their children could be under threat if conversions by reform and conservative rabbis are not recognised.

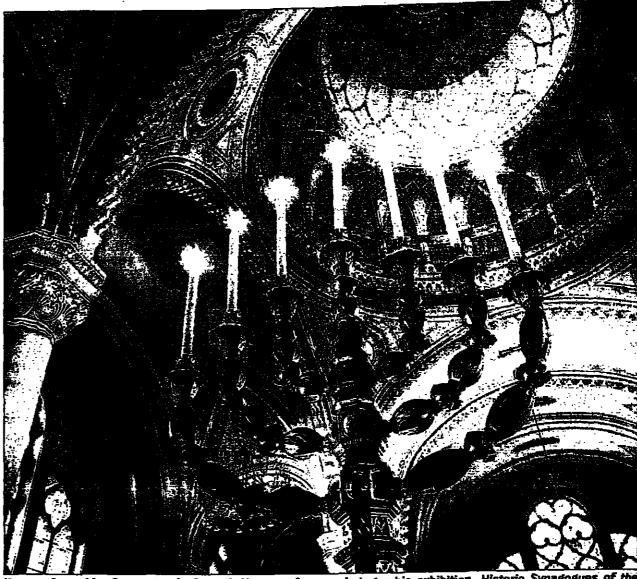
In a press conference, the leading reformer Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman called the proposed legislation an "anathema to the Zionist dream".

"It's a real concern, an emotional concern." a 63-year-old Seattle resident, Goldie Silverman, said. Under the new law, her two grandchildren might not be considered converted, she

worried in the war, we feel the connection to Israel," she said. "Israel doesn't feel the connection to us?" More than once this week,

the 3,000 delegates gathered in a year touted as the 100th birthday of Zionism were warned not treat Israel as an "ethnic theme park" to be visited for the occasional thrill. Dr Arnold Eisen, a celebrated religious scholar at Stanford University, described at one session a World Wide Web page on the Internet where visitors can click to have an electronic-mail message printed and posted on the Western Wall. "I ask myself, is this serious, is this real?" he said.

Dr Eisen's speech, using the theme of being Jewish in a virtual world to warn of traditional communities under siege from a highly mobile, trivialising pop-ular culture, seemed to match the mood of many of his listeners. There simply will not be many Jews in North America a generation or two from now unless we reimagine and reconstruct our communities," he said. At only 2 per cent of the US population, Jewish numbers were shrinking "because critical mass matters and we don't have it".



House of worship: Synagogue in Szeged, Hungary, from a photographic exhibition, Historic Synagogues of the World, at the Jewish Museum, north London, from 26 November to 27 March

Photograph: Neil Folberg

Haredi tighten grip

on Jerusalem

Patrick Cockburn

When a group of Jewish women tried to pray at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem this week wearing skull-caps, normally a male prerogative, they were attacked by ultra-orthodox men who spat at them and hurled chairs, shouting "bitches" and "Nazis".

in a later confrontation Yigal Bibi, deputy minister of religious affairs, denounced the women, seen as secular in Israel, for seeking religious equality with men, asking: "Why do you defile this place!" He said secular Jews had beaches, theatres and discotheques, while the religious had only the Wall.

The display of violence and intolerance by the ultra-orthodox or Haredi, in their black hats and coats, was the latest episode in the struggle between secular and fundamentalist Jews for control of Jerusalem. No less than 40 per cent of secular Jews in Jerusalem now say they want to leave, and the most common reason given is bad relations with the Haredi.

"The major issue for the Jewish population is not relations between Jews and Arabs, but between Haredi Jews and secular Jews," said Professor Amirum Gonen of the Floersheimer Institute for Policy Studies which carried out the survey. "The secular Jews feel they are being suffocated." The strength of the ultra-

orthodox community is visible in Bar-llan street in northern Jerusalem, were the Haredim want to close an important thoroughfare to all traffic during the Sabbath. For secular Jews the future of Bar-Ilan street, scene of repeated battles over the summer, is a symbol of their embattled status in the city as a whole.

But their real fear is demographic. Ultra-orthodox women have three times as many babies as secular Jews. They now number almost 30 per cent of the Jewish population of Jerusalem and they have come to dominate the north side of the city. Al- favour their own community. ready 55 per cent of children in kindergartens come from ultra-orthodox families.

feel menaced by the deeply exclusive ultra-orthodox. Originating in Poland and Lithuania in the 18th century the Haredi (meaning God fearing) live in tight communities led by their rabbis and united by strict dietary and sexual rules and respect for the Sabbath.

In the last 20 years attempts fessor Shlomo Hasson, a senior researcher at the Floersheimer Institute, in a study just published on the struggle, says: "Neighbourhoods adjacent to Jerusalem's Haredi district have gradually changed in character because the secular residents, outnumbered and overwhelmed, are eventually forced

to cede their neighbourhoods." While the outside world has focused almost exclusively on the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians the city has been the scene of bitter territorial battles between Jews. In Har Nof in the west, after some attempt at compromise, the secular population was forced to go. In

Israel's High Court is to permit the Shin Bet security police to use "physical pressure" on a prisoner in the form of severe shaking, which human rights groups say amounts to torture, writes Patrick Cockburn.
The detainee is Muhammad

Abdel Aziz Khamdan, from the West Bank, who is accused of being a member of the militant Islamic Jihad group and is be-lieved to have information about impending suicide at-tacks on Israeli targets. He has been interrogated for three weeks at the Russian compound prison in Jerusalem, where his lawyer says he was de-prived of skeep, shaken and held in an uncomfortable position.

Ramot Allon in the north, secular Jews fight to control the local administration. In Jerusalem as a whole 250 streets are now closed to traffic on the Sabbath. In the Eighties the ultra-

orthodox protested against symptoms of secularism such as sexually suggestive advertisements. Today they are much more political and effective. In 1993 they enabled Ehud Olment, the right-wing mayor of Jerusalem, to win office. Ever since they have been accused of using municipal offices in planning, housing and taxation to

In 1996 the ultra-orthodox became even more powerful by giving crucial support to Benjamin Secular and traditional Jews Netanyahu in the election for prime minister. Their alliance with the nationalist right makes their grip difficult to break. With chances of reconciliation so small Professor Hasson says that one scenario might be for Jerusalem to "be divided into a Haredi district in the north and a secular area in the south".

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Appeal court rejects Chinese dissident's plea

Peking

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A Chinese appeal court yes-terday took 10 minutes to uphold the 11-year jail sentence for subversion passed last month on Wang Dan, the 27-year-old prodemocracy activist. After the hearing, Mr Wang's mother, Wang Lingyun, said: "It was all prepared in advance. I am very angry. It was very unfair.

Mrs Wang said that after the verdiet, she sat outside the court for an hour "in protest". No-one would have seen her, as public security officials cleared the area and kept foreign journalists away.
Appeals rarely succeed in

China, and never in cases involving political dissent; so the outcome was no surprise. Mr Wang was not allowed to speak at the hearing, and the judge at the Peking Higher Level Peo-ple's Court simply read a short, prepared statement. The original trial lasted three hours, in contrast with the 17-month detention period Mr Wang endured before he was formally charged, a period that will not be included in his jail term.

Mr Wang has already served a three-and-a-half-year sentence for his role as a student leader in the 1989 pro-democracy movement. The recent accuasation of subversion rested on evidence that he published articles critical of the government in the foreign media, accepted money from foreign dissident organisations, and had contact with other Chinese dissidents. Mr Wang pleaded



Ideological clash: Pro-democracy activists demonstrating outside the Conventional Centre, in Hong Kong, yesterday against the visit of Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, whom they believe will introduce of illegal changes to Hong Kong's political system

Photograph: AP



long Kong

China yesterday organised a set-piece event which gave the people of Hong Kong a good idea of what it will feel like next year when Peking resumes sov-

ereignty over the colony.

Outside it looked and felt like Hong Kong. Demonstrators chanted democracy slogans while limousines drew into the forecourt of an adjacent hotel, disgorging expensively dressed patrons. Inside the ultra-modern Convention Centre, Chinese officials managed perfectly to reproduce the appearance and stuffy atmosphere of Peking's Great Hall of the People.

Under a red backdrop, with the five-star emblem of the People's Republic at it centre, the 400 members of the committee supposedly "electing" Hong Kong's first post-colonial head of government, or Chief Executive, sat silently while hey were lectured by Qian Qichen, China's Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister, who has primary responsibility for Hong

Kong in the Chinese hierarchy. They were told they had a olemn duty to perform and that, unlike the colonialists. China was giving Hong Kong people a real opportunity to elect their leader. Listening were a group of tycoons who could, if they desired, have liq-uidated China's national debt and still have more than enough left over to add to their collections of Rolls-Royces.

They form the most influential contingent in the Selection Committee, which yesterday completed the first stage of the "election". Not surprisingly, they were being called on to doubt that China's preferred candidate will be chosen at the second stage, on 11 December, was dispelled when the shipping tycoon Tung Che-Hwa was nominated by 206 of the committee's members.

He is trailing the former chief justice, Sir Ti Liang Yang, in the

polls but the public is not being allowed to vote and so Sir Ti Liang secured only \$2 nominations from the electors who count. As one of the other trailing candidates, the businessman Peter Woo, said, public opinion is "only a piece of data" and matters little in this race.

Mr Qian was sensitive to criticism that it was something of a farce. "People must not think the Chief Executive has been preordained," he said. Mr Tung was equally keen to preserve the illusion of a real contest. "I don't think it's a foregone conclusion," he said. The illusion of a contest is important to sustain Mr Qian's claim that "the process of setting up the Selection Committee is the real beginning of democracy in Hong Kong and not the end".

Another interpretation of the in the week from a legislator, Leung Yiu-chung, who described it as "foul grass growing out of a foul ditch". He was expelled from the Legislative Council, worsening the relationship between pro-Peking and prodemocracy forces. Another legislator, Yeung Sum, when asked why he had joined a vigil to protest against the Selection Committee, said: "If all of us disappear, people will think that people in Hong Kong are very complacent. We need to make our voice known.

The protesters tried to present a letter to Mr Qian, but only managed to pass it to a minor official. The Vice-Premier has never before paid a formal visit to Hong Kong. Yesterday he was whisked across the border in the morning and left as soon as he could in the afternoon so as not to coincide with the Governor. Chris Patten, who was rerning from Europ

Meanwhile, in the hall where the "election" was taking place, there was no hint of any symbol other than that of the People's Republic. Reporters were subject to the strict vetting, which is typical of how business is con-ducted in Peking. It did not seem that 1 July was 228 days away.

Croatian

leader in

cancer

scare



Rupert Cornwell Washington

President Clinton has given his formal blessing for a follow-up Nato peacekeeping mission in Bosnia, announcing yesterday that some 8,500 US troops will take part in a new operation which will last at least until mid-1998 - and possibly longer still.

There are some 14.000 American servicemen in Bosnia, part of the Ifor force whose one-year assignment ends next month. However Mr Clinton has now signed on to plans for a smaller Nato follow-up force of be-tween 25,000 and 30,000 men, to allow more time for political wounds to heal, and economic

reconstruction to proceed. Warning that Bosnia's "harvest of hatred has not yet disappeared", the President said the US replacement force would comprise 8,500 men at first, but that number would be reviewed monthly. The aim was to bring half the force home by the end of 1997, and complete the mission entirely by June 1998. His language, however, did not totally close the door on a further extension, should circumstances require it.

Republicans accused the President of breaking his pledge of December 1995 that all American troops would be withdrawn within 12 months, and deliberately concealing his intentions during the election campaign — even though it had long been ob-vious a follow-up Nato force would have to stay in the country. The credibility of the administration's entire Bosnia policy had now been "dramatically weakened", said the Republican Congressman Floyd Spence, chairman of the House National Security Committee.

In fact, from a purely military point of view, Ifor has been a remarkable success, with not a single American among the 19.000 who served in Bosnia killed by hostile action.

Marcus Tanner Fears of a succession crisis in Croatia were mounting last night after a report that Croatia's authoritarian President. Franjo Tudjman, had been admitted to a Washington hospital suffering from cancer.

The announcement, on CNN, citing US government sources, will have caught most Croats by surprise; state-controlled Croatian television and radio were declaring only that the President was on holiday.

Mr Tudjman may have en-tered the Walter Reed hospital, where his defence minister and close ally, Gojko Susak, was re-cently treated, also for cancer.

Although the state of Mr Tudjman's health is a closely guarded secret, rumours have been spreading, following public appearances in which the normally sprightly 74-year-old has looked unusually drawn.

Mr Tudjman illness, if concerned, threatens to plunge the newly independent country into a leadership crisis, with worry-ing implications for the Dayton peace process in neighbouring Bosnia. Since winning the former Yugoslav republic's first multi party election in 1990, Tudjman has drawn power tightly into his own hands, a process consolidated by his stunning military victory in 1994 over the Belgrade-backed Serb rebels of the Krajina region.

There is no obvious successor and what worries Croats is the prospect of a potentially violent power struggle between moderates in Mr Tudjman's HDZ party under Vlatko Pavietic, the speaker of parliament, and ultra-nationalists under Vladimir Seks.

One of Seks' key allies, Ivan Milas, fuelled this concern when he made a veiled threat during last years parliamentary election campaign to call on the army and police if the HDZ were to





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Disease fears set the feathers flying

Katherine Butler Hengelo, The Netherlands

"Are you looking for a most docile prolific breeder, densely feathered for skin quality?". The Belgian Ostrich Breeders' Association's poster proclaimed the merits of its birds. "Think 20 years ahead ... the key to your

success" The South African ostrichmen were not thinking 20 years ahead. They were thinking about Europe's ban on their exports, prompted by an outbreak of Congo fever, a fatal disease carried by ostriches, which, if passed to humans, causes massive internal bleed-ing and the collapse of the

body's organs. Huddled around the exhibition centre, surrounded by displays of ostrich leather handbags, key rings, and cowboy boots they muttered darkly about the French and Belgian

ostrich farmers who seemed the disease which has claimed just a little too quick to "point the life of an abattoir worker the finger All around them, enthusiastic breeders from Sussex to Slovenia brought to-gether for the European Ostrich Association's World Congress, chatted about the nutritional requirements of 10day-old chicks or sat in front of earnest videos on the most efficient way to butcher an ostrich.

In a small pen, a few yards away, partly concealed behind some incongruous red velvet curtains, a dozen or so scrawny birds darted around, but nobody took much notice. And all the time the ghost at the feast hovered, casting its ominous shadow. Congo-Crimean fever, the tropical virus which has prompted the ban on South Africa, was not mentioned in any of the brochures or speeches at the two day congress, and the organisers put on a brave face. But publicity surrounding

and left 16 others seriously ill could not have come at a more inopportune time.

Scoop Pienaar, one of the big names in South Africa's ostrich business was overheard complaining to one of organisers. "I don't want to be negative

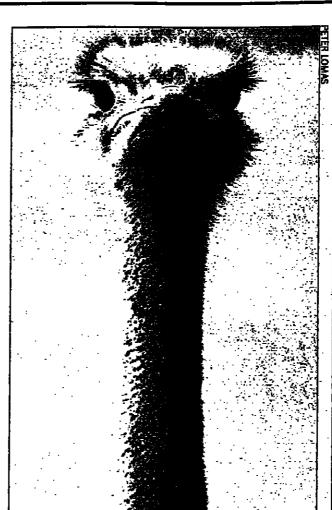
but you could kill the entire industry," he said. They were not doing enough, he felt, to stamp out loose talk about a disease which posed less of a threat than influenza. Mr Pienaar hinted at a major rift in the ostrich producers camp, and maybe even blood on the carpet, later in the day. If the Europeans were trying to keep out South African product to protect their industry, then it could backfire on them. "What's good for the goose is good for the gander," he warned.

Barney Van Niekerk from Jo-hannesburg agreed. "The

French are notorious. They will use any trick to protect their market. But in scoring a shortterm gain, they will harm the in-dustry as a whole. Look at Mad Cow Disease in Britain; it has damaged beef farmers every-

With consumer confidence in beef and other red meat at its lowest ebb ever, the ostrich industry, still in its infancy, has set its sights on the menus and dinner tables of Europe. Assuming fears about Congo fever can be contained, ostriches could still emerge as the cash crop of the Nineties. At the moment, only about 10 tonnes of ostrich meat is produced in Europe each year, while around 800 tonnes is imported from South Africa.

Crisis-stricken British beef farmers thinking about diversification, ought perhaps to know that ostriches are happy to live in any climate, even frost or



significant shorts

French rap for abuse

Two singers in a French rap band have been given three-children killed in the month jail terms and been banned from performing for six months for using lyrics attacking the police. Bruno Lopez, 30, and Didier Morville, 29, belong to the group NTM. Reuter – Toulen

Crash aircraft had swerved

The search for the remaining 51 of the 349 people killed in the world's worst mid-air collision continued among growing indications that one of the aircraft tried to avoid Tuesday's crash between the Saudi Boeing and a Kazakh freighter near New Delhi. Reuter - Charhki Dadri

Bridegroom to be flogged

Amnesty International expressed concern that a Christian man is to be flogged in the United Arab Emirates and jailed for a year for marrying a Moslem

Parents call singers jailed for minister to resign

paedophile murder case have called for the Interior Minister to resign and threatened a new mass rully to avoid stalling in the investigation which led to the arrest of rapist Marc Dutroux, rescue of two girls and discovery of four hodies. Reuter -Brussels

Bosnia gives way to US

Bosnia's President bowed to United States pressure and agreed to fire two defence officials, including one with ties to Iran, clearing the way for a massive delivery of US arms. Reuter - Sarajero

Deal protects caviar source

Five Caspian Sea countries Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakstan, Russia and Turkmenistan agreed to stop aggressive fishing for sturgeon which has depleted resources of the world's main caviarharvest. AP - Moscow

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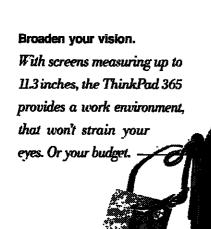
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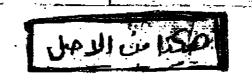
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Everything's familiar. Everything has changed

ook around and what doe we see? We see | land for an interest-rate hike. Even New Labour, , the 1970s, that's what. Black Forest gateau, prawn cocktails and Chicken Kiev are alleged to be "in" again - guilty looks all round among those of us who'd never noticed they were out. Silly shoes, flares, Jesus Christ Superstar and even the colour brown are back in fashion (apparently brown is the new black, whatever that means). Furniture shops are stuffed with plastic chairs with holes in.

Styles wash around us endlessly. A more interesting and difficult question is whether Seventies economics is coming back too. After the devaluation of the flower-power days, wage settlements rose, unemployment fell, inflation began to pick up. But Conservative government shrugged. Its chancellor cut taxes and avoided raising interest rates, bequeathing his name -Barber - to the boom he fuelled.

Two decades on, the story sounds a little familiar. With Oasis rather than the Beatles ringing in our ears, the jobless queues are now falling fast and inflation is nudging upwards - all in the aftermath of the Black Wednesday devaluation, rather than the Wilson one.

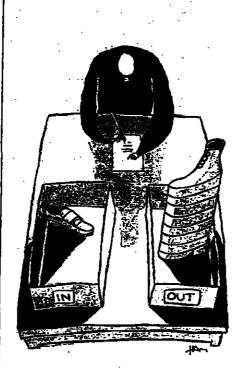
It isn't difficult to imagine the current Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, as a political throwback to the Torvism of the Seventies - all kipper ties, welfarism and pro-Europeanism. Certainly plenty of Tories hope that, with the election only months away, he will be a mini-Barber, cutting taxes and repelling pleas from the Bank of Engwaiting in the opposition wings, could be included in this game of retro-politics. Labour, we will be told, is ready to return to beer and sandwiches with the unions - or croissants and claret, perhaps, since this new corporatism is to

be accomplished via European federal initiatives. It is a neat theory. There is something in the human mind that thrives on nostalgia. But it is, we hope and believe, absolute nonsense. There will be no return to Seventies economics and it would be a disaster if there were.

The climate in which chancellors make their tax and interest-rate decisions has changed dramatically in the past 20 years. Voters are better informed about politicians' tricks, and pundits have more access to the secrets of the policymaking process. Much has changed in the economy that should have changed our attitudes

Indeed, the really remarkable thing is that it would probably be politically shrewder of Clarke to deliver only modest tax cuts, or none at all. After being burned in 1992, voters are highly sceptical about pre-election cuts. The betterinformed are well aware of Britain's larger public sector borrowing constraints. For the Tories, restoring their tattered reputation for prudence matters far more than a day of good headlines in the cheaper papers.

Nor, despite Conservative propaganda, is new Labour under Blair like old Labour under Wil-



son and Callaghan. It has learnt the lessons of 1992 too. Voters are so sensitive to the idea that every new policy must be paid for (ultimately by taxpayers) and so willing to believe Labour profligate by instinct, that the party is taking prudence to extremes. The chances of Tony Blair blowing all in a post-election spending spree or knuckling under to union pressure, all seem slim. Because voters are wiser, and because financial markets are quicker to punish mistakes, any government must act within strict fiscal limits.

Among many of us, attitudes towards inflation have changed. It is now abundantly clear that you can't exchange unemployment for inflation in the long run. Whatever the shortterm rush, inflation hurts and Gordon Brown now sounds as hawkish about its corrupting influence as the Chancellor himself. As strikingly, both politicians are almost as ferocious in their rhetoric as the Bank's inflation-obsessive governor, Eddie George. Thus, common sense suggests, Seventies nostalgia can remain safely within our wardrobes, our CD collections and our fridges. Too much in the economy and in the political climate have changed for us to slip back.

There are even yet, however, some who will regret that. Cooing to themselves that they have suffered enough in the last few years, many people are sorely tempted by the prospect of a little boom. Homeowners and borrowers really wouldn't mind a bit more inflation to raise the

value of their assets and wither away their debis. Employees, fed up of pay restraint and job insecurity, are eyeing the possibility of good times with glee.

Some of the experts are as bad. A majority of city economists and industrialists would be happy for interest rates to remain at their current level, despite the rising risk of inflation. We seem to be getting tired of all this prudence and abstinence. It has happened before: the damaging effects of inflation in the Seventies didn't stop Nigel Lawson creating another boom at the end of the Eighties. At the time so many of us told ourselves we deserved it, for we had participated in an economic "miracle". The economy had changed and inflation had been conquered. Yet we roller-coasted through an old-fashioned boom and bust all the same.

So complacency is unwise. The surrounding economic world may have changed, bringing harsher if more invigorating times; but people don't change so quickly. So long as there are democratic politics, and politicians to offer easier times, there will be inflation. But this time, on balance, we are optimistic that the lessons of the late Eighties, as well as the Seventies, will resound through the next election. Fashion cycles in modern food, clothes and furniture seem to be around 20 years. Business cycles are rather shorter. Whatever we eat. however we look, we can afford no nostalgia in our economics.

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

Break the taboo on teaching parents how to do better

Sir: Jack O'Sullivan should have read our discussion document Parenting before writing about Labour's approach to the subject ("Back to school for mum and dad", 14 November). We made many of the points he accused us of neglecting.

There is a taboo on public discussion of parenting which needs to be broken. We want to encourage a wider debate. There is more advice about car and pet care than about bringing up children. We are bombarded with information about sexual relationships, but scant attention is given to the product of those relationships - children.

We do not pretend to have all the answers, nor have we clambered into the pulpit to preach. But parenting is both a tough and an important job, which when done badly has serious consequences for everyone - not

Jostling for space

Sir: Your article on the rival network of cycleways promoted by National Byway

was prefaced by a reference to canal

fever ("Cycle scheme rivals on path to

many canal societies concerned about

the plans by Sustrans to promote their

We recognise that there is long-

established use of canal towpaths for

If devised as an alternative to cycling on general highways, cycleways

would not be needed just in daylight

hours. Lighting would be demanded. Similarly, regular users would expect a well-surfaced track with safety

barriers. Sustrans' general proposals

In built-up areas neither lighting

nor hard surfacing need be a problem

but guardrailing can be dangerous for

people who need to disembark from bonis. However, the bulk of our canals

either run through open countryside or provide a rural finger through

otherwise built up areas. Thoughtless

much of the very character that

Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire

as they keep bicycles where they

belong - on the roads. Sustrans, by

attracts people to them.

Calder navigation Society

conversion to evcleways would destroy

Sir: National Byway's plans for a 3,000-

mile network of cycle trails will be welcomed by pedestrians everywhere,

contrast, has no qualms about seeking

to take over footpaths for dual use by

cyclists and walkers. Walkers lose the

movement they enjoy on footpaths if

they have to be ever alert for cyclists.

peace of mind and freedom of

DEREK PURCELL

London SW15

already envisage such treatment.

continue. What does concern us is

cycling and we hope that it will

any proposal to create formal

cycleways along towpaths.

cycleways on canal towpaths.

conflict", 11 November). We are one of

on the towpath

We need to be clearer about the responsibilities that pareuting brings; to give a higher priority to information, local help and support for parents; to find a better balance between parenting and work; to improve nursery education and early-years child care; to encourage ideas to help children in state care; and to tackle parenting problems, particularly where children are

involved in offending behaviour.
Our document will hopefully contribute to wider-ranging and serious debate about what is, after all, the most important task any of us ever undertakes. JACK STRAW MP (Blackburn Lab)

Shadow Home Secretary House of Commons

Sir. There is no shortage of parent

Sir: This country already has a

and is called the national road

network. The trouble is the .

motor vehicle.

they generate?

wonderful network of cycleways; it is

Government and highway authorities

have for many years designed and

maintained this network with only

What paltry thought is given to

getting them off the road onto bumpy "trails". At least the National

Byway scheme appears to recognise

that cyclists are neither horses nor

pedestrians on wheels. But, like the

facility. How many new car journeys

- bikes hooked on the back - will

The real need is for bicycles to

have equal access to ordinary roads

and streets, for ordinary everyday travel. Then the bicycle can fulfil its

Sustrans national network, it

appears aimed at providing a

leisure, rather than transport,

cyclists largely takes the form of

one type of user in mind: the fast

wide and smooth, goes everywhere

spearheaded by the voluntary sector for at least 15 years. Excellent programmes are available for supporting parents throughout the child-rearing cycle and for those parents facing specific challenges with their children, such as poor behaviour or criminal propensities.

Yet there is no priority given to parent support work and excellent voluntary organisations struggle to keep afloat. Preventative work with families is not seriously covered by the resources within the criminal justice system nor any other distinct budget.

Under the chairmanship of Jean Corston MP, the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Parenting has addressed the lack of coordination between government policies which daily, badly affect the lives of parents and children. If only commitment to implement

Getting in the way? Cyclists on the towpath of the Grand Union Canal in Islington, North London

Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

CPADLEY

potential for reducing pollution,

increasing the fitness of the nation

Sir: John Redwood ("How I would

free drivers from gridlock", 12

November) is right in saying that

traffic chaos is worse in term time -

single biggest deterrent to children

walking and cycling to school is the

Routes to Schools project, in

partnership with several local

authorities, which aims to

Sustrans has launched the Safe

encourage children to walk or cycle

to school, by reducing the danger

from traffic. New traffic-calming

and improved cycle security are

The Government has made a

schemes, cycle paths, safe crossings

danger from traffic.

planned.

hour traffic is due to school trips. The

up to 20 per cent of morning rush-

and increasing personal freedom and

programmes helping parents could be running on a nationwide basis very soon. Two things are needed immediately: a central point from which all the available programmes can be disseminated and frankly marketed: and a national training base from which professionals can begin the task of becoming preventionists rather then interventionists.

It is vital that the health service and local authorities invest in professional adaptation programmes for their staffs. Then, health visitors and social workers will be seen as parent and family supporters and not child-abductors. Without this, scarce resources are wasted as parents avoid. contact with the very services that can make a difference. CAROLYN DOUGLAS Executive Director, National Parenting Development Centre

to repentance Sir: Paul Vallely ("Thank God for the gays", 11 November) tries to dismiss

Bible calls gays

the biblical teaching against homosexual acts by reductio ad

Vallely lumps together Old Testament condemnation of homosexual acts with the bans on unclean food and mixed-fabric garments. However, food-bans and so on have been swept away by the coming of Messiah and the inauguration of the kingdom of God. The moral realities of biblical sexuality however remain. They are not rooted in the symbolism of the old covenant but in the fact that God created man and woman in his image for companionship, sexual intimacy and procreation within the confines of marriage.

The fact that Jesus nowhere condemns homosexual acts must be put in the context of a Christ who everywhere assumed the authority of the Old Testament and who himself confined sexual expression to male-female marriage (Matthew 19 ii-ix). As for the apostle Paul, his

forthright condemnations of homosexual acts (Romans 1, 1 Corinthians 6 ix), cannot be dismissed as culture-bound. Paul was not, as Vallely suggests, anti-sex *per se*. In Ephesians 5, Paul sanctifies the oneflesh relationship of marriage by making it a picture for the relationship between Christ and the Church.

The Bible always teaches that sex is for male-female married couples; to suggest otherwise you have to resort to special pleading or simply to deconstruct the Bible to suit yourself.

The message for "lesbian and gay Christians" is that God does love all human beings despite their fallenness and wants to save and heal us. We must all repent of our sins and turn to God in Christ for help. The Rev GUY A DAVIES

Virgin's fight over transatlantic slots

Sir: Richard Quest says that none of the other carriers (I presume including Virgin) has devoted the same resources to London as BA-American with their 60 per cent combined market share and 80 per cent control of peak-time transatlantic slots ("Merger will not stifle competition", 12 November). What he forgets to mention is that the only reason we haven't is because we are not allowed to! Virgin would love to fly six times a day to New York and have been applying for more slots for years and years.

If the two governments allow the effective merger of these globally dominant carriers there will be even less competition across the Atlantic and Mr Quest can kiss goodbye to what service he gets today. Slots are the key and these two monopolists still insist they are not on the table. RICHARD BRANSON

Virgin Group of Companies London W8

A soldier at 15

Sir: Further to M Grugeon's letter (13 November) about under-age fighter pilots, my elder brother enlisted in the King's Royal Rifle Corps and was in uniform in 1941 the day after his 15th birthday. In action in North Africa and on through Italy, he was injured near Florence, which resulted in his being invalided out some time after his 18th birthday. There were a great many like him. TGWHIPPEY

Market Drayton, Shropshire

LETTER from THE EDITOR

metics austerity, tinged with environmentalism, is arriving in the newspaper market. After launching The Eve, we have had some letters urging us to offer a smaller paper, not a bigger one. I have some sympathy: one of the penalties of being in the business is that I get almost all the Sunday papers delivered at home. Well, not The News of the World or Sunday Sport, of course, but the rest of them. Under the slew of grey or yellowing paper, the bedroom, kitchen and hall slowly dissolve into a West London imitation of the Sao Paulo municipal rubbish tip - only instead of the seagulls' cry, there are small Marrs chirruping: "Daddy, why has that lady got no vest on?"

But for The Independent, the practical problem with giving way to the "less is more" philosophy, or down-shifting the paper, is that everybody has strong opinions about what is unnecessary - and they mostly conflict.

One reader would ditch chess, or John Lyttle; others would give up the paper if they went. Some say "no football"; others go there first. A quick count tells me that I have so far been advised to get rid of most of our commentators, the sports pages, colour pictures, all the supplements, coverage of pop music, and food, politics, ("mostly propaganda") and "things about Africa." Which would leave, of course, very lit-

If people were really hostile to the size of papers, surely the mammoth, ungainly Sunday Times would be a commercial flop, and tiny Tribune would be

tle indeed.

hugely popular.

The truth is surely that a newspaper, when it works, is like a caricature family gathering: there are the excessively well informed uncles, angry daughters, hectoring spouses, aged wits, spritely gossips, black sheep, crooners, ranters, hearty story-tellers, drunks, puritans. As a reader you pass around, stopping here and there, avoiding this one and sharing a long sherry with that. You might sometimes wish there were fewer; but once you start dropping them, life suddenly seems a little emptier. At the same time, of course, one house can

only accommodate so many raised voices.

A sign of the times: at South-wark Cathedral this week there was a packed memorial service for the brilliant journalist Nico Colchester, inventor of the Mars Bar index of global value, ex of The Financial Times and The Economist. It was a moving and uplifting occasion. Nico was described, accurately enough. like this: "Quintessentially English, he was at the same time thoroughly cosmopolitan and enthusiastically, though not uncritically, pro-European."
True: but the apologetic cough of that "though not uncritically

A newspaper is like a caricature family gathering. As a reader, you move around, avoiding one relative and sharing a sherry with another

grated. The spirit of Bill Cash was amongst us: Nico, a generous-souled debunker, would have hooted.

The hunt of the week is for the identity of "Cassandra". This famous political nom de guerre has been revived by Tribune as its pseudonym for the Labour MP, a former frontbencher, who attacked Tony Blair in its latest issue, darkly warning of a palace coup against him next summer.

Over-heated stuff, in my opinion: readers of vesterday's paper were able to judge for themselves. But if Tribune say the writer is senior, perhaps that's so. Conceding this is generous on my part, since the pre-vious edition of Tribune had a piece "outing" me as the author of another pseudonymous column, "Lynton Charles MP", in the New Statesman. This is not so. But I know the name of the hapless verbal assassin responsible. And for a small consideration, I may still be persuaded (David) not to reveal it.

Andrew Marr

Asteroids that could ruin our civilisation

Sir: 1 read Charles Arthor's article on the threat from asteroids and comets (13 Nevember) with some interest. As the individual who published the initial report in June I would like to correct one detail: the report was not an "internal civil service report"; it was produced by me, as a private

inderidual. You quote David Hughes, who appears to question the whole concept of planetary defence. Indeed, for the objects that he describes - the 15-20km "dinosaur fallers" - he is quite right. However, this is not the problem with which the meeting on the 12 November was

concerned. The major threat to our civilisation is posed by asteroids in the 1km size range. At this size an asteroid or

comet nucleus will produce global effects on impact, and we can expect such an event, on average, once every 10,000 years. Asteroids or comets capable of causing mass extinction events are much rarer, occurring once every 10 million years or so. Mr Hughes is therefore quite correct in saying that we are in little danger of extinction, but has failed to appreciate the danger from globally threatening objects in the 1km size range, capable of inflicting a 25 per cent casualty rate on our species and reducing civilisation to ruins. JONATHAN TATE

City seeks out the 'missing' electors Sir: Your report of 7 November on

the level of under-registration of electors quoted an estimate by the Treasury that only 70 per cent of adults in Westminster are registered to vote, implying that the remaining 30 per cent are eligible to vote and therefore missing".

The current register stands at 121,104 electors, which, if this implication was correct would mean that we would be missing 52,000 electors. This is simply not realistic, bearing in mind the high proportion of the resident population who are foreign nationals and the number of

residential properties that are in business use

commitment to 20mph zones and

fall in child pedestrian and cyclist

children to travel further on foot

once traffic-calming is in place.

Sir: John Redwood thinks that

increasing speed limits will improve

traffic flow into built-up areas. It can

be shown very simply and surprisingly

Code) that the maximum traffic flow

(assuming 15ft long cars and the interpolated thinking and braking

distances found in the Highway

(number of cars per second) is

obtained when all cars travel at 17mph. The answer is therefore to

reduce speed limits, not increase

DT STEPHEN N DANCER

accidents. Recent research

CELIA BEESON

Sustrans

traffic-calming in some areas. These

measures can produce a 75 per cent

demonstrates that parents will allow

It may be that the 70 per cent figure is the percentage of properties that returned a form for the February 1995 register. The current register is based on information from 86 per cent of the properties canvassed. It is likely that the greater proportion of the missing 14 per cent will have no one eligible to vote so the "missing electorate is much nearer 5,000 than 52,000.

COLIN WILSON Electoral Registration Officer Westminster City Hall

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (Fax: 8)71-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.nk) and include a daytime telephone number.

Letters may be edited for length and charity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

I was said a few weeks ago to be on 24-hour suicide watch. I don't even know how to spell the word - The Duchess of York The Lord Chancellor is not a shoot-from-the-hip, rent-a-quote politician on the make - Tory MP Jerry Hayes

Quote Unquote

We have seen a parliament composed largely of parliamentary pygmies accepting a slide towards being little more than a provincial assembly with subordinate powers to legislate over a shrinking portion of our national affairs - Lord Tebbit on the growing influence of Europe on Britain

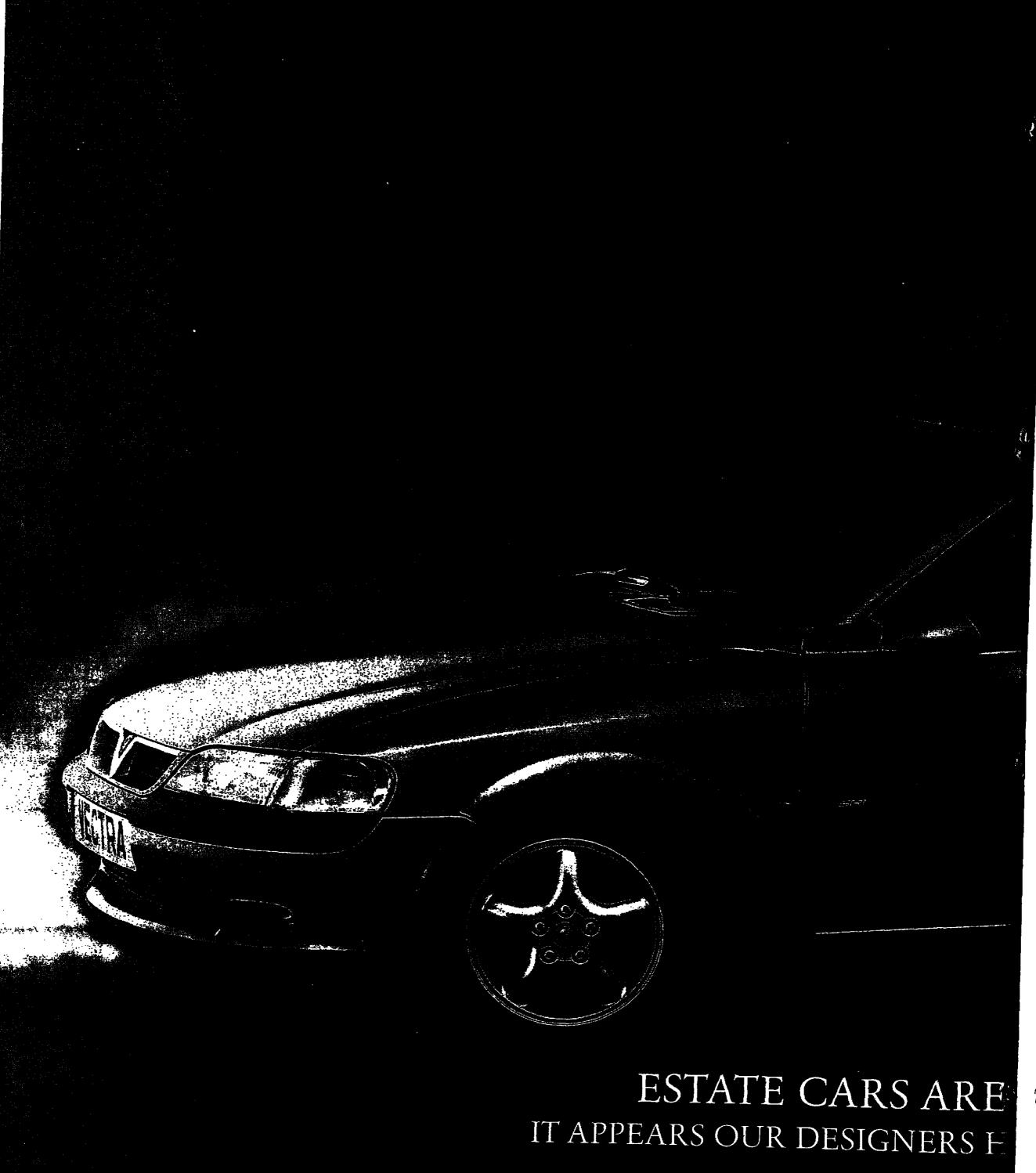
Behind the facade of unity and discipline the reality is that Tony Blair's position as leader of the Labour Party is weaker than any leader in memory - an unnamed "senior Labour MP" in a column in the political weekly "Tribunc"

Males have the ability to enjoy multiple orgasms, three of them, one after the other, and each lasting about one and a half hours Dr Michael Majerus of Cambridge University, talking about

My motto is: when in doubt buy shoes. All my shoes are my

favourites the day I buy them. It's a bit like a man chasing blondes - TV presenter Marcelle d'Argy Smith

It's definitely best to go out on a high - Mastermind of 1995 Kevin Ashman on the decision to axe the show



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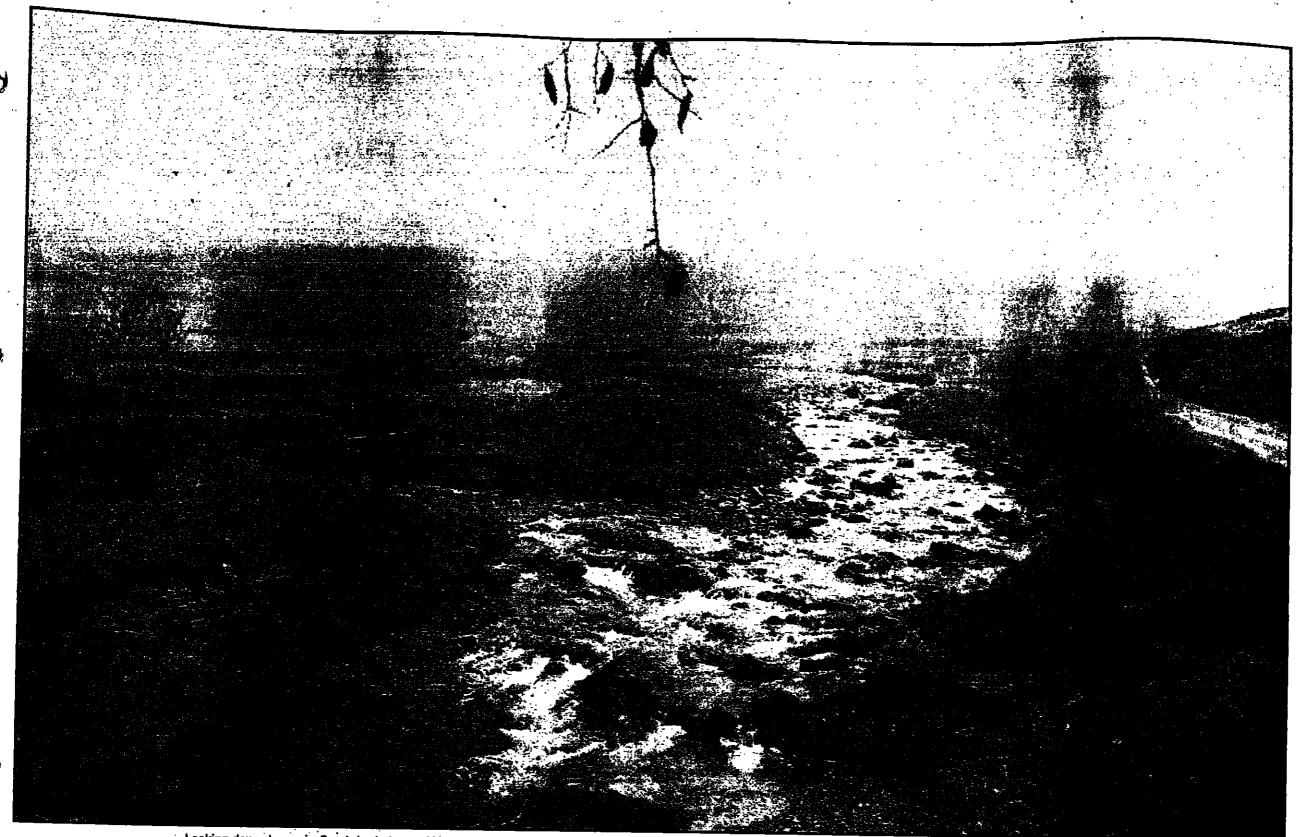
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Looking downstream in Cumbria, between Hard Knott and Wrynose Pass. This picture was taken by John Voos on a Leica M6, 28mm lens, Kodak PJA 100 ASA film

the ongweekend

So Michael Jackson is to marry his nurse, mother-to-be of his child, fathered in the normal manner – now we know that anything is possible: that Lebanon is the place to go for skiing; that the best way to spend today may be planting garlic; that the movements of the planet Pluto will threaten life as we know it; that there's a book about all-in wrestling you perhaps ought to read. Oh, and by the way, prawn cocktail is back in fashion.

interview



John Walsh meets **Donald Sinden**

The classic thespian talks about Spitting Image, his ballet ambitions - and the death of his son

page 3

Kerber's week . Heavenly + Earthly . . . 2

arts & books

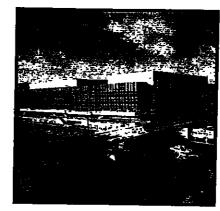


Magician of modern art

Reviled as a coward and woman-hater, Picasso emerges from two new biographies renewed and awesome. By Andrew Marr page 6

Book reviews6-8

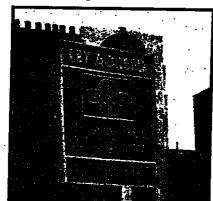
travel



The new spirit of Berlin

Simon Calder visits the former East German capital seven years after the wall came down page 9

money



Is property still a good investment?

The bouyant rentals market has created a new breed of investor - the landlord

page 18

Property .		•	•	•	•	•	.18	3-	19
Shopping							.20	5-2	28
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TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

THE SUNDAY REVIEW real life



DUCHESS IN DESPAIR Bryan tore up my diary and threw it around the room. HE HIT ME. I had bruises down mv arms.' Fergie pours her heart out



BOYS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN (and not get married) The new male code that is sweeping America

PATIENT, HEAL THYSELF A guide to DIY medicine

SPORT



POOR LITTLE RICH GIRL She's rich, very ich, but Laura Davies knows she would be even richer if she were a male golfer

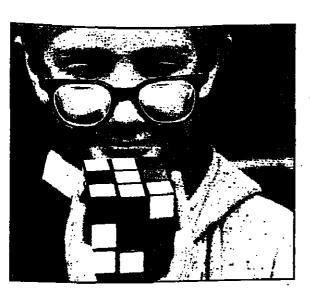
HERO'S RETURN Back with Wales, our columnist, Jonathan Davies, gives his verdict on the European Cup rugby action

BUSINESS



WITH NY Win two Virgin Atlantic tickets in the Great Gobbledegook Chase by sending in appalling examples of financial jargon

WHO IS THE NEWEST FAT CAT? Find out tomorrow



Whatever happened to Rubik's Cube?

The moment: The British are anally retentive obsessives: that's why they are so easily hooked by crazes. So when Ernö Rubik invented a cube with 43,252,003,274,489,856,000 possible combinations and only one solution, the public was eager to buy this deceptively simple, brightly coloured, child's toy.

Background: Not content with exporting goulash and Gypsies, Hungary was also responsible for Rubik's cube. In the late Seventies a German mathematician told the veteran puzzle manufacturer, Pentagle, about a new puzzle designed by Dr Rubik, a teacher in the University in Budapest. When the lecturer found that none of his students was able to create a 3D design that could rotate in any direction, he did it himself and patented the idea. Pentagle had discovered, in a crude form, the prototype from which a puzzle would emerge which would occupy a special place in the British psyche for many years. The Germans at first snubbed the creation; so too did the British puzzle-buying public. But then the leader of fashion, Noel Edmonds, spoke; and the masses obeyed. For three weeks running the cube featured on his Multi-Coloured Swapshop on Saturday mornings, and sales soared.

The effect: The puzzle peaked in popularity in the early Eighties. 15 million were sold, and it was estimated that three out of four households had a Rubik Cube buried in the sock drawer. In spite of an initial lack of interest the world over (including Hungary) the Rubik cube suddenly became hugely successful in everywhere.

Only a very small number of people managed to solve the puzzle of their own volition; some boasted their logical prowess in public and then sneaked away to look up the solution in one of the many books; others cheated by breaking the cube up and reassembling it.

Moments of subsequence: Though immensely successful, once solved a Rubik cube did not have many other uses, and in 1983 the market for the multicoloured mind game suddenly disappeared. There was however a vast market for spin-off products. The cube bred many-sided variants: a company in Hong Kong looked at every mathematical shape and did a Rubik-type dissection of them. Dr Rubik sold his name. and it was banded across many other Hungarian logic puzzies, such as the Rubik clock, snake and board game.

Mathematicians strove to find ways to solve the puzzle in fewer and fewer moves, while others in anoraks saw the cube as a challenge of manual dexterity. Then the anoraks met the mathematicians, and world records started to fall. According to the 1986 Guinness Book of Records, Minh Thai, a 16-year-old Vietnamese refugee, won the world's Rubik cube championship with a time of 22.95 seconds.

Now, if you believe the publicity, there is to be a resurgence in the popularity of the Rubik's cube. Hasbro has bought the worldwide rights to the cube, and it can now be found exclusively in Hamleys toy shop in Regent's Street. Hamleys say that they are very popular and selling quickly, so if you want to become a numb-fingered gibbering anorak, we suggest you buy your cube now.

Sam Coates

heavenly The far-out influence of Pluto

urrently there seems to be a raft of books concerned with bridging the generations. First a book on sons and

mothers, in which the broadcaster Jon Snow angered his brother by outing their mother's wig. Now Chatto has come up with an Anthology of Fathers.

The cynical might think that this is nothing but a typical publishing ploy to fill the Christmas present generation gap, but it may be as much due to the fact that the planet Pluto has

recently changed signs. Pluto is a curious planet, the outermost known in our solar system. Modern astrology seems to go haywire when it tries to incorporate such a murky sphere into its system of prognosis. For one thing, Pluto is so far away that even the most

obbie Williams: he's

come a long way,

where he's been. Hotel

Where the Boy Who

rooms can do that to you.

Killed Take That was on

Thursday was presenting

the MTV Europe Music

Awards, bless his velvet

was jolly brave about it. His feet wobbled

nervously all night, but he

straitjacket on the telly the

Drink and drugs hell? Pre-

The thing is, TV and

truth lie a long way apart. The camera picked up a

crowd of maniacs waving

their hands and cheering

themselves pink in the

face. That was about an

eighth of the crowd. The

people, their friends and

rest was music business

got through. No wonder

he's been wearing that

last couple of weeks.

publicity, love.

suit and plimsolls, and he

but he's not too sure

besotted stargazer cannot argue that, unlike the sun or moon, Pluto can have any physical effect on the earth or its inhabitants. And its power is supposed to be so vast, and its effects so slow and deep, that astrology's limited vocabulary is hard put to let us mere mortals know what's in it for us.

The planet is interesting none the less. Take generations. Pluto was first spotted in 1939, and, in tune with its penchant for leaving huge upheavals in its wake, found the world in arguably its greatest crisis yet. At the time Pluto was discovered. it had just entered the sign of Leo, the only sign ruled by the sun, the sign of the ego. Cogito ego Pluto. This does not mean it was crossing in front of the constellation of the lion,

but rather through the

girl in front of me said

some people there had

paid £150 for a seat.

make bad crowds.

about as welcome as a

Sarajevo. The poor lambs

considerable strain, as the

Palace insisted on serving

glasses rather than bottles.

were, of course, under

organisers at Alexandra

their free beer in plastic

but still. I've seen more

enjoyment at the Royal

Courts of Justice. They

were jiggered if they were

seen clapping, or laughing,

going to be the first one

or enjoying themselves.

Except Robbie. And

even Robbie's famous grin

rapidly slipped into a grim

line of horror. It was

somewhere around the

fireworks display in



mathematical 30-degree portion of the sky which astrologers assign to Leo. Pluto's habitation of Leo lasted until 1956, giving it most of the responsibility for what is called the Me Generation.

The generation before us baby boomers found Pluto in Cancer, sign of home and hearth. This makes our parents' generation, the subject of all these books, the group for whom the ground of their being was the family. Which does seem to fit.

Then we came along. the post-war wild egomaniacs, and we've been calling attention to ourselves ever since. What other generation could have produced the spotlight-hoggers Mick Jagger and Camille Paglia, than that of Pluto in Leo?

afterwards have Pluto in Virgo. They are thought to be unusually tuned in to each other, even unconsciously coordinating their movements in groups such as classrooms. They are also no doubt overorganised, as well as being

The bunch who came

quotidian. Then come the Pluto in Libra group, who are certain to be "nice", just

excruciatingly dull and

like Canadians.

Scorpio being down and dirty, Pluto's transit through it - commencing

in the Orwellian year of 1984 - has brought us all those sordid revelations of child abuse at boys' homes and public schools. Longterm traducers such as the Wests and the Belgian paedophile ring, have been dragged into the light - it's been like opening a grave. There seems something

extra powerful in these disclosures, since both Pluto and its ruler Scorpio have an affinity for death. Mini-demonic practices such as gangsta rap and body-piercing have also

Mercifully for us more Sagittarius, where it promises to do no more than totally disrupt world governments over the next couple of decades.

like the Master in *Doctor*

off a cannon of funereal

Who. The audience loosed

applause. Virtually the last

one of the evening. By the time Metallica played "So

Fucking What", it felt more like a comment on

crowd reaction than the

post-modern philosophical

statement it obviously is.

Andre ritually slaughtered

some Sixties and Seventies

covers, band playing one

pitch, lads singing another, mustard suits waggling,

Boyzone and Peter

thrived. superficial types, Pluto has this year moved along into

in addition

1111

he revelation, a week ago, that 42 is indeed the answer to Life, the Universe and Everything - or al least the value of Hubble's constant, which comes to much the same thing has delighted all fans of Douglas Adams. Since then, a spate of 42sightings have confirmed - in the minds of true believers at least - its all-

pervading nature. On the very same day as the Hubble report, the "Number of the Day" on our sports pages was none other than 42. The following Monday saw the sad death of Marje Proops after 42 years as an agony aunt: then on Wednesday we noticed there were 42 days left until Christmas, Finally, on Thursday morning the Duchess of York told Sue McGregor that in the early years of her

marriage, she and Prince Andrew had been together only 42 days each year.
Furthermore, Don Stallyhrass, the high priest of Britain's fortytwoists, has written to us to point out that on page 42 of The Fontana Dictionary of Modern Thought, an entry for "atomic clock" mentions that one second equals 9,192,631,770 cycles of vibration of a Caesium atom. And that number is, believe it or not, divisible by 42.

We all know about the original 42 articles of the Church of England, a 42armed Hindu goddess, the 42 sacrifices of Balach in the Book of Numbers, the 42 demons that decided the fate of ancient Egyptions and the "forty and two" months the Book of Revelation predicted the Gentiles would tread the holy city, but does all this really confirm 42 as the answer to everything? After all, there is a one in 42 chance that any number will be divisible by 42.

So we have run some tests - on cricketers, and Londoners named D Adams. For each cricketer in Wisden, we noted whether the total number of runs he scored last season was divisible by 42; for each D Adams, we tested his phone number, with or without 0171, 071, 0181 or 081. Here are the results. with the figures expected by chance.

Total Exp D Adams (no prefix) D Adams (+0171/0181) D Adams (+071/081)

286 6.81 4 66 1.57 66 66 1.57

Most results are below chance, though they provide evidence that Oftel did, if anything, make matters worse with the number changes. We conclude, however, that 42 is not the answer to Life, the Universe and Everything.

William Hartston

John

 $\{(a,b), b \in \mathcal{A}\}$

. . . Arrest.

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 $M_{2}(t)$ Vitaria

KEY

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Serena Mackesy

first advert break. Some joker had booked the silver-tongued Mark Lamarr to play warm-up man while the big stars mopped their brows. Mark tried to raise a laugh by saying "cunt". Then he said it again. Then he launched into the sort of we're-all-mates-here "irreverent" vitriol that made The Word such an unqualified success.

Robbie?" Robbie wasn't having any of it. "Better a fat fooker than an ugly fooker, Mark," he replied. Even the music biz tittered. Robbie started to show signs of confidence. His accent, which had been showing alarming southernisation, relaxed a bit. By the time he shouted in the Smushing

Oops, sorry: that was "Hasn't Robbie lost

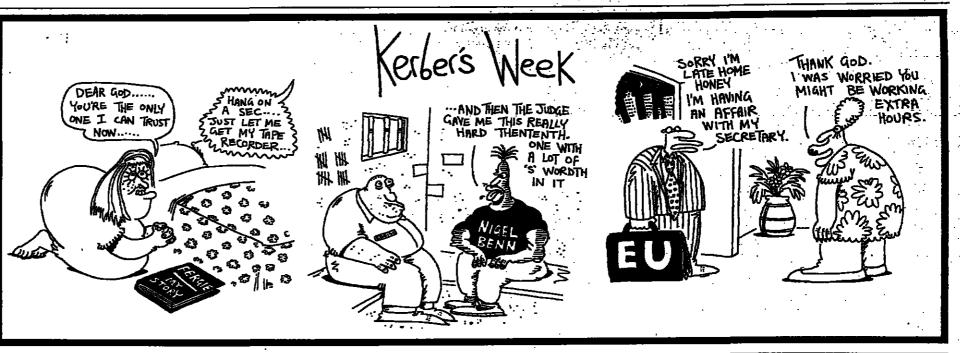
Poompkins I was feeling the same affection I get from a bottle of Scotch and the Take That Greatest Hits video. There's a tank on t' runway, Robbie.

> Jason, wasn't it?
> "Here's a loovly lad," said Robbie, and George Michael emerged, with a dozen dancing extras, from a limo. George wore a frock coat and looked

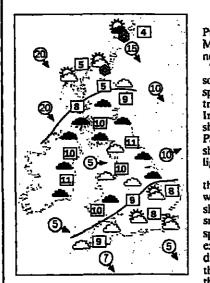
proving that neither singing nor dancing ability is obligatory for stardom. This was too much for Robbie. He took the stage and did a slidey thing with his legs. "Boy bands," he said. "That takes me back.

used to be?" Oh, bless. And he's handy with a paintbrush,

Cause you know who I



weekend weather



General Situation and 5-Day Outlook:

Pressure will be low from Scandinavia to the central Mediterranean for the next few days with a cold northwest flow over the British Isles. Today, rain over Scotland will clear away to the

south as brighter weather and some sunshine spreads from the north. However, there will be wintry showers and a chilly northwest wind. Northern Ireland will see rain giving way to sunshine and showers for the afternoon, but with a cool wind. Patchy fog over England and Wales will lift, and it should stay dry to the south with some sunshine and light winds. However, rain will be moving south. Sunday will see rain in the south clearing to leave

the whole of the country with a mix of sunshine and wintry showers. Monday also promises some sunshine after a frosty start. There will, though, be snow showers to the north while rain or snow spreads into the southwest. Sleet and snow is expected across the southern half of the country during Tuesday with sunshine and snow showers to the north. The cold weather will then continue

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You'd have to look hard to find a smaller fare.

Contact your local travel agent or call for details on

British Midland The Airline for Europe

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Cape Town s 18 64
Casablanca f 19 66
Christchurch f 19 66
Canenhagen s 6 43



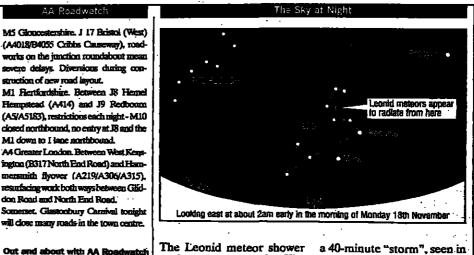
will close many roads in the town centre. Out and about with AA Roadwatel cal 9336 491 for the letest local and ne-tonal traffic news. Source. The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 359 per min (cheap rate) 459 per min (all other times)

Good Good Good Good Good Good

graction of new road layout.

M1 down to I isne northbound.

don Road and North End Road.



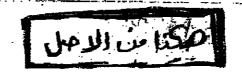
peaks tomorrow night. The best chance of spotting shooting stars is after the constellation Leo has risen, at about 2am, and from then on till dawn. Some Leonids could be around into the early part of next week. Unlike some other showers, the Leonids don't perform equally well year in year out. They put on their best show about every 33 years. The last spectacle was

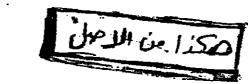
the US m 1966, when meteors rained down at a rate of several a second. Observations over the last couple of years hint that the Leonids are steaming up as 1999 approaches, so the 1996 outlook is promising. Weather permitting, the sky will be good and dark for meteor watchers this year, since the Moon, at first quarter, sets before Leo rises.

It's been changeable, with much of the UK

seeing at least half an inch of rain. The wettest place was Eastbourne in East Sussex, with 1.43 inches. It has also been sunny, with 5 to 8 hours of sunshine across the UK and many places have seen temperatures in the very mild category, up to 14C in Guernsey. Overnight values have been down to -5C in parts of Hampshire, and as low as -8C in parts of Scotland.







THEATRE Everyman, The Other Place, Stratford-on-Avon

Medieval morality as you've never seen it before - Theatre de Complicité-style. The production has some divine touches: if only the accents didn't bring you back down to Earth. By Paul Taylor



The physical route to spiritual enlightenment: Joseph Mydell and Josette Bushell-Mingo in 'Everyman'

Photograph: Tristram Kenton

wen the recent productions of Goethe's cosmos-spanning Faust and Byron's abyss-traversing Cain, the RSC seems to be taking it as its duty to yank us to the theological extremities on a fairly regular basis. This policy continues now with a revival in the Other Place of Everyman, the anonymous late 15th-century morality play whose generic title character achieves heaven at the end, but only after a long, arduous pilgrimage teaches him the worthlessness of worldly things, the treacherous inconstancy of friends, kindred and of one's own inner faculties and the contrasting steadfast value of the sacraments and of good deeds.

Anyone who thinks that medieval morality plays consist in the stiff shuffling round of faceless abstractions will be puz-zled as to why Katie Mitchell, who is running this year's Other Place season, has recruited Kathryn Hunter and Marcello Magni to stage the piece. These performer-directors are best known for the expressionist physicality of their work with Theatre de Complicité, but, as the introduction to the new tiein edition of the play rightly points out, Everyman has many proto-expressionist and proto-absurdist elements that fastn to player

production revels in fleshing out this death manual's theological propaganda and implications. That is evident from the outset, where we see Everyman (played by the physically imposing black actor, Joseph Mydell) soaking in a tin bath, his long limbs dangling outside of it, the eyes on his flung-back head closed in luxurious content. Tellingly, on a nearby rock, there lies, alongside his wallet, a gold Rolex watch: lost in sybaritism, Everyman forgets that you never know when your time may be up and you will be called to account.

On the next occasion when he sinks, exhaling with quiet horror, into this tub, it has become his earth-filled grave. Between those two points, the production wheels in all those personified types who make, often by default, his pilgrimage a spiritual progress. These include Good Deeds - presented as a potato-faced, Scots-accented peasant woman (Myra McFadyen), who (in a very Beckettian touch) strains unavailingly to rise from the ground until Everyman's confession of his sins renews her strength - and Beauty, Strength and the Five Wits who zoom in, like some very alternative circus act, on a ramshackly makeshift motorbike and sidecar.

to mention the Dirrenmatt of that modern morality play The Visit, which was one of Complicite's greatest hits).

Expertly deploying a corporeally quirky cast on a barish set of rock-strewn and scorched, baked earth, and using costumes and music that have a 20th-century East European feel, the

except that this loses the intended correspondence with Christ's Passion. And some of the characteristic Complicité subversiveness spills over into areas where a straight-faced bow to orthodoxy might seem to be required. The final tableau, in which, up in Heaven, a more than mildly brainwashed-looking angel (Edward Woodall) holds a still out-of-it Everyman in a Pietà pose, does not have one pining to gatecrash the alleged

party at this address.

The American actor, Joseph Mydell, with his large, anguished features and his lean, powerful physique, brings a charismatic suffering dignity to the central role. Vocally, though, his delivery is hampered by the fact that he is being called upon to use a very proper "poetry-speaking" English accent. The over-careful elocution cuts you off from the emotion. What, after all, is to stop a representative sinner from sounding American?

It's ironic, in fact, that the question of accents should come up here, for when William Poel directed his historic revival of Everyman in London in 1901, the critic of The Times complained that the actor playing Fellowship had a North Country intowould be pure Home Counties, vocally. Perhaps Heaven is full of people who have the diction of Patricia Hughes and Purgatory crammed with Angela Rippon sound-alikes. Is there a hierarchy of accents, even in Eternity?

POP MUSIC Jamiroquai, Royal Albert Hall, London

basically, the prospect of giving you all your tickets back band took over from what had been a solid and capable support act, the gulf that opened up was ocean-wide. Jamiroquai have a thousand musical tricks up their sleeves, and they came out using all of them: edgy, dissonant brass lines played as crisply as James Brown's but complicated by the intricacies of contemporary jazz; a wider variety of tempos than is common in British funk; energetic bass lines and rhythms bastardised from disco; a DJ using turntables to provide a constant commentary of scratching.

Kay himself is clearly the dynamo that makes each part of the machine work. The cynics still get over-heated about him once sounding too much like Stevie Wonder – as if that was the greatest musical crime - but it's his cocky West London charisma that gives the band its identity. Whether it was a ballad or disco-fuelled funk, Kay sang with that kind of effortless musicality that is so rare that it's surely just too churlish to praise his influences instead.

They played music from all three albums, plus the odd cover and what sounded like

inger Jason Kay had a new tune; which was good, been suffering from at a time when so many gigs degenerate into long payinfection, and had cancelled per-view adverts for a new the first leg of his British album. "Emergency on tour. ("I dragged myself off Planet Earth" has become my sick bed to be here ... something like a Jamiroquai anthem, and was received like one. "Return of the was too scary.") But when his Space Cowboy" turned cleverly into a long, trippy rhythm workout - a sense of batucada percussion turned unfamiliar by thick, synthesised sounds. The band's star didgeridoo man Wallace Buchanan made his traditional appearance, providing a cavernous, mumbling foundation to the deeply funky "Journey To Arnhemland", and, on "Didjital Vibrations", made the didgeridoo sound like the instrument missing from all those Whitfield-Strong, psychedelic-era Temptations tracks.

The only let-down was provided by the venue. The Royal Albert Hall just wasn't built with drummers in mind; and while choirs might sound great with a hefty dose of natural reverb, it really takes the wind out of a good funk rhythm section's sails, to hear all the snap, crackle and pop a second time on its way back from the walls and ceiling. It is to the band's credit, that they still managed to put in the kind of gritty but polished. soulful performance that made lots of people put on big, furry hats, and dance.

Linton Chiswick



Jason Kay: sick of body, but sound of soul

CLASSICAL MUSIC

John Tilbury Plays Morton Feldman, Planet Tree Music Festival, Conway Hall, London

pianist John Tilbury. Appropriately presented in the Conway Hall, seat of the sented in the Conway Hall, seat of the Feldman once said, "My obsession Feldman once said, "My obsession ence of listening to 80 continuous minutes of music felt like a prayer gathering. In that sense, my compositions are really Tilbury, a veterun of the avant-garde and one of our most sensitive performers, was giving the UK premiere of Morton Feld-

American composer's later works (he demands a quality of listening freed sat absolutely still with no wriggling, no relation to their predecessors. Moments movement of so little.

man's Triudic Memories.

at last Tuesday evening's recital by the itself is of restraint, introversion - a

with surface is the subject of the music. not 'compositions' at all. One might call them time canvases in which I more or less prime the canvas with an overall hue of the music." Peldman's music is infa-Written in 1981, this is one of the mously soft but it is this very softness that

only with cleaner ears but with a cleaner music, like all his music, that isn't trying soul. As John Tilbury has written, "Feldman's music enhances the consciousness of the instrument at which, or with which, the musician sits. This, together with an emphasis on the sensual and physical qualities of the art of performance, creates the necessary indivisibility of musician and instrument and, at

best, of music and audience."

t's a long time since I've felt so pro-foundly moved by any concert as I was duration was fully fledged. But the music 20th-century music. One emerges not did sound volcanic. A tribute to the incredible concentration of Tilbury's performance. Feldman's writing demands virtuosity but it is a virtuosity that has nothing to do with velocity or, as Barthes has put it, "petty digital scramble".

The very leanness of the material both frozen and, at the same time, vibrat- reiterated patterning. ing. This is a music you listen into. Pat-

fidgeting and but a single cough - which of real lushness occur caused by so little - a single line turned into throbbing seconds, rolling major thirds dulled and ister from high to low pitches, a "sitting" on rumbling low notes that give off the widest range of overtones, an exquisite balance between the choice of high and forces focus, and creates a stasis that is low register and the impeccable timing of

This is music at its most chaste, even terns are reiterated, turned, turned, tumbled, tak-though there is a sense, time and time. Alas, too rare a breed, Well, for 80 minutes a modest crowd ing on a new perspective, a new relief in again, of powerful drama caused by the

Tilbury sat virtually motionless in shaded profile, the light of an old-fashioned standard lamp was all that was dimmed by parallel notes, a switch of reg- offered. Since his death. Feldman's music has been largely neglected. But then, he always used to say "most of the music you hear in London is official music, as if written for the London Sinfonietta..." For London read Paris, Milan, Cologne, Vienna. And, of course, Feldman needs performers like Tilbury.

Annette Morreau

ř		THE WEEK IV REVIEW David Benedict	THE MUSICAL Scrooge	THE FILM The First Wives Club	THE PLAY Light Shining in Bucks	THE ALBUM The Lightning Seeds
	IVEV.	overview	The stage version of the film Scrooge with book, music and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse, and Anthony Newley in the title role. Tudor Davies revives Bob Tomson's original stage production, designed by Paul Farnsworth.	Goldie Hawn, Diane Keaton and Bette Midler take revenge on lousy men after Stockard Channing kills herself when her spouse dumpsher for a bimbo. Hugh Wilson directs Robert Harling's script polished by Paul Rudnick.	Mark Wing-Davey directs Caryl Churchill's neglected play about the pain, politics and passions of the Levellers, Diggers and Ranters of the English Civil War, with the National Theatre education and touring department.	The Merseyside pop combo, who gave the world "Three Lions", the catchy (as in contagious) theme tune to Euro 96, follow up their album Jollification with the dangerously named Dizzy Heights.
	EXCELLENT	critical view	Edward Seckerson liked Newley but, as for the musical, "thank you very much, but no". "Does not bode well for the musicals of Christmas future," wailed the Times. "A picture-book musical every child deserves to see," dribbled the Mail. "This underdone, over-stuffed old turkey," cringed the Standard. "Embarrassing go and see Swan Lake instead. Or almost anything else," advised the FT, "Drearily unmemorable entirely unmoving," summarised the Telegraph.	Adam Mars-Jones pointed to the cast, the bitching and the regular savage one-liners, "but don't get your hopes up too high". "The film would be nothing without its stars," observed the Times. "A raucous sitcom with non-stop punch lines," nodded the Standard. "The premise is sound enough what sinks the whole outing is the absence of plot twists and some truly flaccid slapstick," sighed the FT. "Great actresses who deserve something better," lamented the Spectator.	Robert Hanks declared it "remarkable Hard to believe this was written nearly two decades before Tony Blair took over the Labour Party absorbing." "A startling piece of theatre Amelda Brown glows with determination and the serenity of faith a powerful rebuke to our 20th-century cynicism," praised the Telegraph. "If the purpose of an educational tour is to stimulate thought and argument, then the National could hardly have chosen better," admired the Times.	Andy Gill was disappointed. "The album languishes in the huge shadow cast by the Beatles the gap between homage and parody has all but disappeared." "Contains some sugary-sweet three-minute pop beauties, but there's a creeping Tunes R Us feel to Broudie's songsmithery," admonished the Mail on Sunday. "As good as it gets," pronounced Q. "The tunes lie seductive and seduced in the noonday sun, bedazzling. So, be dazzied," gushed Melody Maker.
	OR	on view	At the Dominion Theatre, London W1. (0171-416 6060)	Cert PG, on general release.	In educational and small-scale venues before playing in rep at the National's Cottesloe theatre (0171-928 2252) from January.	Epic 4866402
	POOR	our view	More a threat than a treat. Richard Briefs in A Christmas Carol at the Lyric Hammersmith looks a much better bet.	What can you say of a movie which attempts to make an icon out of Ivana Trump?	A typically passionate, clear- sighted play from one of our greatest contemporary dramatists.	Another day, another product for the Beatles heritage industry. Broudie can probably do better than this.

Gleaming, naked and nasty

Andrew Marr compares two approaches to the century's greatest artist

A Life of Picasso. Volume II, 1907-1917 by John Richardson, Cape, £30 Portrait of Picasso as a Young Man by Norman Mailer, Little, Brown, £25

o may be a great artist. wretched man." Thus Marie artist, after the death from cancer of Eva Gouel, Picasso's putative bride and mistress. Almost all artists' biographies stir up the argument about the relationship painting, novels or music. Yet common sense suggests that human personalities are divided, so that people who behave meanly in the flesh, can be generous-spirited and great-souled in their work.

Pablo Picasso confronts us with these problems at their most intripolitics, and the easy description "woman-hater" fails to get anywhere near his fascination with femaleness, swinging him between loathing. But he is an easy target. For many years, his misogynistic selfishness and occasional cruelty, his physical cowardice and envious termite-colony of psychological biographers, leaving him gleaming,

naked and nasty. end, the greatest artist of this cen-- but it helps us see his art differently. One thing he did was to reintroduce into painting many things into high art. And he did all this because, in part, of the man he was. action to punctuate the story of embarrassed to quote at length

Picasso's sometimes extreme behaviour and his totemic stature have made for some second-rate biographical writing in the past. There have been the dazzled worshippers, such as Roland Penrose. and the clawing furies, such as Arianna Stassinopolous Huffington. But since the first volume of John between character and work. Richardson's Life appeared in 1991, Moralists will always want to con- we have known that there was one nect X's reprehensible politics or sure guide, one thoughtful, bal-Y's cowardice with flaws in the anced and highly readable detailed account in progress. The second volume is even better than the first.

After the breathtaking facility and verve of his early years, the decade 1907-17 takes Picasso into revolutionary mode. The blue and rose periods are behind him. He is still with his first serious muse, Fercate. He wasn't an evil man in his nande Olivier, and he is about to embark on the adventure of cubism, via the savagery of Les Demoiselles d'Avignon, his half-Iberian-classical, half-tribal group portrait of prostitutes which, 90 years after it was painted, remains one of the most disturbing and shocking images in Western art.

Cubism is the big story of this the constants of Western art. The detail of that story is unavoidably absent in a biography. You strain to diminish his art - Picasso is, in the intricate arguments with Braque in the privacy of his studio. You want tury, the ultimate magician of form to go to big illustrations of the drawings and colour reproductions of the begging to be improved upon." paintings which the book lacks. But painted the raw dirtiness of sex as after time, he awards Braque the well. He introduced jokes and puns prize for key Cubist discoveries.

Picasso's life through the decade. He moves from bohemian poverty in Montmartre to bourgeois plenty in Montparnasse, from the relative obscurity of factional leadership to real public fame. Throughout, he is surrounded by a large, colourful and changing cast of rivals, hangers-on, poets, self-publicists, mistresses, models, fakers and snipers. Richardson is brilliantly good in his pen-portraits of these characters, not least the dealers and collectors who made Picasso rich and famous.

The story includes the suicide of a friend, the arrival and return of a briefly adopted daughter, brushes with the law, the Simon Peter-like denial of Apollinaire in the dock, war and pacifism, the death of one mistress, the discarding of others, a menagerie of animals and the endless, multi-layered politics of the avant-garde. This is a genuine work of scholarship, and one emerges from it knowing far more about Picasso's behaviour and admiring his genius no less. It is a glorious thing to have in the house.

The comparison with this great work of scholarship and tact has not pride have been picked over by the book, a sudden break with many of helped Norman Mailer, whose Portrait of Picasso as a Young Man seems designed to make professional critics sneer. It is a tumult of Does it matter? It does not hear, and never can, those long and a biography, all fist-shaking defiance and breathtaking judgements such as the dismissal of a wonderful Cezanne harlequin as "clumsy...

In fact, the clumsiest thing Richardson's arguments about the around is Mailer's prose, which that had been lost. He painted key developments are compelling can sometimes sound like a poor visions of love and of lovers; but he interesting and eloquent that, time impinge upon him." This book postures, rants and hectors - it is a caricature of literary machismo. Yet it Meanwhile, there is plenty of has great qualities too. Mailer is not



hatred and disgust as well as cele- and sometimes novel. Given his translation: "We can hardly con- Picasso's Paris, or of Barcelona bration. He painted idealised pro-Picasso instinct, it is particularly ceive of how powerfully did objects whorehouses, or to hear the voices

from other authors and contem- say about Picasso's extraordinary, porary observers, including Fer- pear-headed friend, the damaged nande herself and Gertrude Stein and clearly lovable poet Apolli-- passages from which Richardson naire. But nowhere does he achieve extracts a single phrase to embed in the fanfare Mailer gives him: "In his own text, are here reprinted ver- keeping with specifications of a royal bastard, he was christened Wilhelm (later to be Guillaume) Wladimir Alexandre Apollinaire de

Trinidad Ruiz y Picasso, it is relish, focusing without embar-Bateau Lavoir.

Then, of course, there is sex.

notably more elevated. Of course, rassment on Picasso's more porno-Apollinaire belonged to a rare graphic scribblings. And if the sub-group - the lumpen-aristoc- psychological ruminations seem racy...". One suspects that that's wild at times, again Mailer has a the kind of writing that would Picasso-like fascination with death, the female principle and so on. He doesn't flinch from the monstrous aspects of the genius's behaviour; and arguments around him, this book is better than the better book. Sometimes you Nor has Mailer's eye for a killer Francisco de Paulo Juan Nepomu- and shamanism that the average art can learn almost as much from a phrase wholly deserted him. For ceno Maria de los Remedios critic lacks. He wades into argu- good bad book as from a straight-instance, Richardson has a lot to Crispin Crispiano Santisima ments about sexual identity with forwardly good one.

Painting pictures in Soho and Greenwich Village

Richard Davenport-Hines reviews two artistic Lives

Francis Bacon: Anatomy of an Enigma by Michael Peppiatt, Weidenfeld, £20 Jasper Johns: Privileged Information by Jill Johnston, Thames & Hudson, £16.95

iographies of painters a masochist with Rimbaud's the essence without being positive about factual shapes," as Francis Bacon said. The greatest painting in the 20th century has been anomalous and parabolic; it has not told literal truths, but has provided mystifving hybrid images, repudi-ating the sort of pictorial story-telling about which spectators can make pedantic guesses and pride themselves on their eleverness in deciphering secret messages. As a result, modern painting can be trivialised if viewed biographically, and painters rightly fear that their images may be sterilised by a reductive or literalminded biographer. The possibilities of a sympathetic. interpretative biography are shown in Michael Peppiatt's account of his friend Francis Bacon. The results of humourless, arrogant biographical interpretations are exemplified in Jill Johnston's rant about Jasper Johns.

series of fractured literary models: childhood in a horsey Anglo-Irish family from Elizaboth Bowen, in youth a prostitute-thief from Genet, then a Baudelairean dandy, a Dostoevskyan gambler, a Soho boozer from Colin MacInnes, and thought-provoking. Pep-

Bare especially difficult. fascination for violence who ended in a senescent sexual-Vaughan's description of Bacon as a "spiv-existentialist" is wonderfully apt, for be never abandoned the fashionable nostrum of Soho and Greenwich Village in the 1940s that the key to a productive and amusing life was submission to chance and abasement before the consequences of arbitrary decisions. The result was a fractured. destructive life which, by the intensity of its abandonment to extreme instincts, gave Bacon superb powers of visual Peppiatt first met Bacon in

1963, and though his memories of their conversations add a keen edge to his biography. he never forgets that Bacon surpasses him in both interest and achievement. Peppiatt hints that Bacon's need of emotional extremism to stimulate his creativity led him to exaggerate the desolation of Bacon's life followed a his childhood, and writes with unprurient cheerfulness about Bacon's masochism, which is surely more basic to his painterly vision than homosexuality. His account of the

literary influences on Bacon's The Family Reunion (1939). Though he tells us that Bacon often re-read Proust and declared that the first section of Sodome et Gomorrhe "said everything there is to say about homosexuality", he should perhaps have compared Bacon's pictures of men shricking in pain and roaring with pleasure with Proust's most terrifying volume, Le Temps Retrouvé, in which the narrator and characters endure the final saturnalia of a Baconian hell,

Bacon's images of previously unimagined horrors seemed outrageous in the 1940s and 1950s. The early pictures of Jasper Johns like White Flag (1955), Green Tar-get (1955) and Gary Alphabets (1956) created equal scandal by playing with familiar designs like the Stars and Stripes or firing-range targets. The huge, abrupt success of his 1958 show broke the hegemony of Abstract Expressionism in the USA and prefigured the Pop Art movement. As one might expect from a painter whose most vital work has been an evolution of Bacon's artistic ironic teasing of famous prisingly, Johns refused perideas is confident, amusing emblems. Johns has said: "I'm

piatt is fascinating about the gest the world rather than the personality." His discreet, selfreliant persona is mistrusted, if not resented, in the confessional America of Oprah Winfrey, and has brought him the attention of Jill Johnston. Johnston's agenda is for

ible art object" which she calls "virtually a freak of culture" to be "nudged into the open, no longer a fugitive from impor-tant truths." Predictably in our age of tabloid Feudianism, the important truths from which Johnston implies that Johns is a fugitive are sexual, and most of her suggestions are exceedingly trite. She has made one interesting observation, identifying Mathias Grunewald's 16th-century Isenheim altarpiece (much admired by Bacon) as a profound influence on Johns' later work. But her account of this is overblown and unnecessarily mysterious. It climaxes with a simplistic connection between the depiction of a monster and plague victim in Grunewald's altarpiece and the carcinomas associated with HIV. The rest of the book is discursive, incoherent, pompous drearily literal-minded and ill-written. Unsurinterested in things which sug- reproduced in it.

Thinking Brillat-Savarin in a Delia world

Felipe Fernandez-Armesto savours a feast of literary food

Hungry for You by Joan Smith, Chatto, £17.99

more vivid than food. Tell me what you eat and I will tell you who you are. From cannibals to health-food freaks, people choose their menus as a source of self-transforming magic, enhancing their characters by appropriating the qualities of their diets. Culture began when the raw got cooked. Fireside settings turned eating into ritual. Cooking, when it started, was not just a way of preparing food but also of organising society. In todav's microwave households, when communal eating has stopped, the end of cooking threatens us with a new kind of savage: the loneliness of the fast-food eater. If we want to be truly civilised, il faut vivre pour manger et ne pas manger pour

Yet the biggest market today is for boring. over-processed pap; and that goes for food literature as well as food. Readers who could have Brillat-Savarin settle for Delia Smith. Joan Smith's recipe for jaded minds and palates is an anthology of food-writing - a literary equivalent of dim sum or tapas. In one of her intriguingly that Duke Ellington, who liked to eat till he hurt, once admirable. Rosemary Conley are repetitive, like dubious ness.

I o cultural indicator is worked his way through all the is smitten, hip and thigh. The mackerels, some misplaced Joan Smith is driven by the same enquiring appetite, but better discernment. The purpose of hors d'oeuvres is not to satisfy; nor can an anthology be exhaustive. It should set the jaws going and the juices flowing. It should titillate, not cloy. Joan Smith knows how to tweak the phagocytes into She manipulates the

reader's appetite daringly, acis at will. She arranges

herterial by wonderfully idiosyncratic themes. The first five courses are calculated to repc! most of her readers. They deal with starvation, sex, bad food, cannibalism and over-eating. It is a tribute to Smith's menu-planning that even after harrov are us with skin-taut anorexics, conjuring us with concentration-camp victims' bones, sickening us with "flesh like fresh butter", splattering us with bulimics' vomit and puzzling us with St Catherine's taste for pus ("Never in my life have I tasted food or drink sweeter or more exquisite"), she can still tempt us with her own favourite recipes.

Her judgement is

85 kinds of hors d'oeuvres at Fifties diet-guru, Gaylorde the Cafe Royal in The Hague. Hauser, is delicately ridiculed in his own words ("my Be More Beautiful Diet...you will be amazed at the way the fat rolls off.") If I ever get seven consecutive days at home, I shall my his preachy, starchless "Reducing Diet" - not to see whether I lose weight, but whether I retain my sanity.

Smith has an unerring eye for crankery, charlatanism and egotism of every kind. Her own taste in food is a triumph of good sense: she likes to gorge on liver with onions and chestnut cream. She sucks the pulp out of whole roast garlic cloves. She gives plenty of space to some of the finest writers on food: Brillat-Savarin, Elizabeth David, Laura Esquivel. She realises that much of the best work on the subject has to be garnered from general literature, not just explicitly foodic efforts: she would make a good editor for a literary companion to

There are some pips in her macédoine. The introductions with which the selections are off, inadequately researched. Some extracts are selected from secondary sources. Some

food.

like a fingernail in a veal pie. Some, especially in the section on cannibalism, suggest that Smith should have done more work on the historical and anthropological literature before making her final

selection. Readers of anthologies are usually disappointed by inevitable omissions and Joan Smith deserves more praise than blame for putting together a defiantly personal book; but a chapter called "Eating Shit" should surely have had at least something on coprophagy; and it has to be admitted that - from a woman of catholic tastes and unconventional sympathics - the selection as a whole veers surprisingly towards modern western sources.

Only really interesting peo-ple should compile quirky anthologies. Joan Smith is fascinating and keeps you riveted, teased and annoyed all at once. Her leitmotif is sex. She discovered its connection with food when she fell out of love and turned to vegetarianism. Now that she is back on . linked are the weakest parts of bloodily suppurating liver, the book – hurriedly thrown venison and wild boar sausages, the reader can enjoy. her book, comfortingly reassured of her personal happi-

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The Bonfire of the (1987)

Plot: Sherman McCoy is a Wall Street bond dealer. Last year he earned \$980,000 but still needs more to fuel his lifestyle, wife and mistress. He is putting together a baroque financial deal/fiddle which will earn a commission of 1.75 million dollars. Driving his mistress, Maria, Sherman takes a wrong turn and finds himself in a destitute area of the Bronx, Misunderstanding two young blacks who offer to help, they panic; Sherman pulls his Mercedes out of trouble and kills one of the boys. Maria persuades Sherman to forget the incident. The victim's family is now exploited by a series of grotesques who turn the accident into a cause célébre. Among these are the Reverend Reggie Bacon, a black preacher with a taste for incendiary rhetoric, and Peter Fellows, an English journalist who needs an exposé to service his expense account. The police trace Sherman and arrest him. The case is reported in stereo and New York feels self-congratulatory outrage. Sherman loses mistress, friends, flat, wife: all consumed in the Bonfire of the Vanities. The novel ends with a news report which scrupulously distorts the truth.

Theme: New York is a steaming stew of poverty and racial tension, bubbling with corruption. The rich are so wealthy and the poor so deprived that the notion of society has been abandoned.

Style: When on form, the language flashes like disco lights in an electrical storm. But there are some flat passages when Wolfe abandons satire to move the story on.

Chief strengths: The novel mimics Dickens and Thackeray in range and energy. Wolfe moves between different social levels with ease and

Chief weaknesses: Unlike Balzac and Trollope, Wolfe is not gripped by the process of money making. Sherman's financial chicanery is seen as infantile from the beginning.

What they thought of it then: New Yorkers were not happy and Wolfe was accused of racism and inciting conflict. But the book sold well, hyped after its serialisation in Rolling Stone. Over here it was as fashionable as red braces and champagne.

What we think of it now: The novel looks like an interesting experiment in reviving 19th century panoramic fiction. Critics awaited Wolfe's second novel with anticipation to see how the experiment would develop. They are still waiting.

Responsible for: Brian De Palma's dud film; stoking the funtasies of young clerks who dosh in the City.

Gavin Griffiths dreamed of making pots of



The books

The book of Paulo Coelho's brief but brilliant destiny fable. The Alchemist. (HarperCollins, 3hrs. £11.09), first translated into English last year, has sold over a million and a half copies. It's not too late to find out why. Like all proper stories, it works wonderfully well as an audiobook. More destiny-questing occurs in Danie's Inferno (Navos, 4hrs, £8,99), the latest in Navos Audio's intelligently abridged series of Great Epics, Benedict Flynn's translation, read with deep involvement by Heathcote Williams, is to my mind an improvement on the more famous terza rima of Dorothy Savers.

Christina Hardyment

NEW AUTHORS WHEN ICES ALTER MOUNT ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED Future, Icon Fiction, Biography, Religio Postey, Chistoria AUTHORS WORLDWOC SATTED VIETE ON SEND YOUR WANUSCRIFT

The book you meant to read Re-inventing Mary Anne

D J Taylor reads the life of a rebellious Victorian

George Eliot: A Life by Rosemary Ashton, Hamish Hamilton, £25

ousness, began a campaign to exclude fiction from the shelves of the London Library, he made a point of omitting the nov-els of his friend George Eliot from the list. Reading Rosemary Ashton's absorbing new biography, it's easy to see why Spencer stayed his hand. In fact, to anyone bent on compiling a series of "Foundation Stones of the Victorian Mind" – a quintessentially Victorian exercise - Middlemarch would not look out of place next to The Origin of Species or Lyell's Principles of Geology. This hierarchy for thought, let us say - is one of Eliot's most attractive qual-

ities; the one, too, that sets her apart from most of her contemporaries, many of whose fictive sociology can look simply amateurish when set against the paralysing clarity of Eliot's vision. On this reading, Thackeray is a Regency atavist, Dickens the eternal parliamentary reporter with a journalist's knack of "getting up a subject" at short notice: with Eliot's novels there is a sense that the Victorian age, with all its arguments about rationalism and the moral life, is properly under

A moment's thought undermines this conception of Eliot as the "modern" Victorian for, as her new biographer shows, the origins of nearly all her fiction, their moral dilemmas and social panoramas, can be traced back to her Warwickshire childhood of the late 1820s. The prevailing tone of the average Eliot novel is made up of rural solidity, sedate Anglicanism sharpened by a whiff of Dissent, with the 1832 Reform Bill just round the corner. Like Dickens and again very much like Thackeray part of her imaginative life is sim-

that epitome of Victo-rian high moral seri-march is really an historical novel, if you consider its distance from the events described - touch on most of the topics over which mid-Victorian society was prone to agonise: political reform, God (or rather the difficulties posed by the impossibility of proving his existence), even, in a subdued, roundabout way, the posi-

Appropriately enough, for a woman who was to turn herself into one of the grandest of grand Victorian panjandrums, George Eliot's position was anomalous from the start. Her whole career seems marked by periodic reinventions of herself, and Ashton's competent marshalling of the different names by which she was known (a dozen, ranging from the initial Mary Anne Evans through epistolary pet-names like "Clematis" to the final Mary Ann Cross) reveals something of this chameleon quality. Quite as marked was her resolute transition from one kind of early-Victorian world to another. Beginning life as an archetypal "spare woman" and set to care for a declining father, she suddenly branches out into the role of spiritual doubter and bluestockinged autodidact, translating works of German theology and penetrating, via her friends the Hennells and the Brays, some very unorthodox local company. Then, with father dead and the family circle no longer congenial, she makes a yet more decisive break: heading off to London to work on the liberal-highbrow Westminster Review, and live amidst the curious mėnage à trois conducted by its publisher

The extent to which this arrangeent may have metamoroho

John Chapman and his wife and

governess at 142, The Strand.

hen Herbert Spencer, age. At the same time these back- man's diary, nothing more). Certainly, Eliot's flightiness in affairs of the heart is at odds with her later reputation as the "strong-minded woman of the Westminster Review". There were several embarrassing early flirtations, and Chapman's diary supplies a revealing gloss on this odd, burrowing, inner life: "She pressed me for some intimation of the state of my feelings (I told her that I felt a great deal of affection for her, but that I love E, and S. also, though each in a different way). At this avowal, she burst into tears." Without doubt the scandalous relationship with the already-married G H Lewes, who moved in the same free-thinking literary circles of the early 1850s, released something pent-up in her, for the torrent of fiction began within a couple of years and its first outpourings - Scenes From Clerical Life, Adam Bede and The Mill on the Floss - came tumbled together. Lewes's role as her impresario, his encouragement, his ability to fix lucrative contracts (George Smith gave her a record-breaking £10,000 for Romola in 1862, which he later came to regret) and shield her from hostile criticism has rarely been so well brought out. Under Lewes's supervision, too, she settled into the kind of routine demanded by a lowspirited woman whom the polite world was chary of being seen with -long periods of work interspersed with continental travel of the "improving" sort and a little society that was predominantly male and unimpeachably high-flown.

Ashton is good on the powerful tensions that give Eliot's life its lasting sheen. For all her early personal rebelliousness, her later radicalism was rather muted, and an 1867 foray into print to remind newlyvoters of the respon - there is a feeling that the greater investigates with her usual sober innocuous. Her legendary fastidi- which forbids much in the way of sedulousness (there are a couple of ousness can look merely perverse, as radical departures from the central ply marooned in the pre-Victorian ambiguous references in Chap- when she remarks of one particu- track.



George Eliot: "paralysing clarity of vision"

larly glowing notice that "it is so unmixed in its praise that if I had any friends, I should be very uneasy lest a friend should have written it". Taken together, this is a model introduction to Eliot - wellresearched, unexcitable (in which respect it differs from last year's effort by Frederick Karl), grating only in its occasional laying on of the middlebrow trowel ("In the manner of writers from Chaucer and Shakespeare to Scott and Wordsworth and Jane Austen, she catches the paradoxes of human life, the ugliness as into a ménage à quatre, Ashton bilities of their position is very constraint of its length (400 pages)

Towards the end it all got a little "mercurial little showman". This unreal and sacramental. There were absurd, gushing admirers ("Darling," wrote one woman, "the Spanish Gypsy made me sad, it was so noble: the poetry was beautiful, but must noble women always fail?"). Lewes died, and she made an impetuous late marriage to a much younger man of business, John Cross (there is a mystery about him throwing himself into the Grand Canal at Venice while on honeymoon, about which Ashton is rather vague). The novelist Eliza Lynn "errant woman" and Lewes as a uncannily prophetic rebuke.

distance from most of Victorian life - forced upon her in any case - had its symbolic properties: Edmund Gosse remembered her being driven around London in a carriage, "massive features" topped by a bonnet in the latest Parisian fashion. Thackeray's daughter, Anne Ritchie, characterised her as "not exactly a personal friend, but a good and benevolent impulse": very much the personality that emerges from the novels. She believed, Ashton tells us somewhere, that Art is special sacredness" which got Eliot the succeeding generations of writinto such trouble after her death, ers who imagined that life was the when Meredith dismissed her as an nearest thing to Art, this seems an

Heels down, head up, hands together

Frances Spalding revels in life's gymkhana

Fair Girls and Grey Horses. Memories of a Country Childhood by Josephine, Diana and Christine Pullein-Thompson, Allison & Busby, £15.99

talent are rewarded in the fictional world created by the Pullein-Thompson sisters. Their pony stories during the Fifties and Sixties incited children to be brave and to hope for success. Today there are people in all walks of life who were sparked by these equine adventures, for between them the sisters have written 150 pony-story books, as well as adult novels, crime fiction, biographies and much else. In this autobiography, their three voices create a composite picture of their childhood. It offers brisk approval (a housemistress is "admirably decisive") and obstructed feelings ("The dogs were a great emotional stand-by") and reveals the blend of stoicism and roman-

a desire to write. Even the fourth child became a playwright. But because he was a boy and sent only an intermittent appearwas going on in the Pullein-Thompson home, where the children were encouraged to be endlessly active, that attenhere and now, especially to animals, which increased in number until the sisters had their own riding school, two

stables and 42 horses. How did it all begin? The catalyst, it seems, was Mamma, the novelist Joanna Cannan who ignored a nurse's advice ("Put away that scribbling dear, Baby's coming") and rivalled her friend, Georgette Heyer, with her prolific output. She was scatty and arrogant, careless over her

capable of the inspired gift. Her married life had begun in Wimbledon where she bred Sealyham terriers. Later, when they moved to Peppard in Oxfordshire, she introduced her children to horses and wrote A Pony for Jean, which is said to have begun a new genre in children's books. She admired the unorthodox, but in some ways was deeply conventional. "Are the twins normal?" asked a Wimbledon neighbour. "Good God, I hope not," she replied. Yet when they developed learning difficulties, she assumed their problems would be solved by marriage to rich men.

The twins, Diana and Christine, had their own language and, when small, were only able to talk to each other. ticism which bred in all three Josephine, 18 months older, sometimes felt lonely watching them play. All three tumbled off horses, played Mur-der in the Dark and were away to school, Denis makes fond of reciting rousing poetry, preferably Scottish. ance in this book. So much Among these vivid memories are poignant details: the twins suffer a prolonged identity crisis; "Cappy", their arthritic father, flings clothes found on tion had to be given to the the bathroom floor out of the window, rages if his boiled eggs aren't right, and petulantly shouts at Mamma, "Why don't you manage me?" In addition, disasters regularly befell animals. But everything was grist to the mill for these authors, whose first novel was

> had no letter 'r'. What makes this book a sociological gem is the ethos the extraordinary achieve-it evokes. Owing chiefly to ments of these intrepid horse-Nana, an old-style nanny who women.

a discarded typewriter which

ourage, patience and daughters' education yet kept children strapped in their high chairs until the porridge was finished, the Pullein-Thompsons never whined, ate what they were given and walked miles without complaint. There seem to have been none of the messy compromises which parents and children make today for the sake of sanity. Emotional problems, writes Diana, were never discussed in the family. "and 'Don't be personal' was a reprimand we took seriously." Their Mamma called alien opinions "Claptrap!" and if someone tried to excuse delinquent behaviour on the grounds of an unhappy childhood, she would offer a mocking, "Glands!".

Mixed in with this stiff-

upper-lip attitude was a degree of eccentricity."You were very peculiar", recollected a woman who had gone to school with the twins. It was a relief when formal education was abandoned, and at 14 they began to write and teach riding with Josephine. "We were brought up to be brave. stoical, merry-hearted and physically tough, but not to be especially sensitive to others' feelings," writes Diana. They also said what they thought, mindful of Mamma's frequent cry, "Don't hint". Paraphrasing W. E. Henley, Josephine remarks that their childhood equipped them to become masters of their fate and captains of their souls. That she later ran the English Centre of a joint production, written on International PEN with the same toughness, humour and realism which she brought to the riding school only adds to the extraordinary achieve-

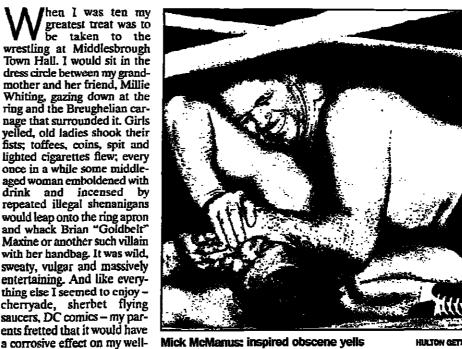
Kendo and Giant Haystacks Harry Pearson is still in the grip of a passion for grappling The Wrestling by Simon Garfield, Faber, £9.99 Then I was ten my

Sweating with Granny,

V greatest treat was to be taken to the wrestling at Middlesbrough Town Hall. I would sit in the dress circle between my grand-mother and her friend, Millie Whiting, gazing down at the ring and the Breughelian carnage that surrounded it. Girls yelled, old ladies shook their fists; toffees, coins, spit and lighted cigarettes flew; every once in a while some middleaged woman emboldened with drink and incensed by repeated illegal shenanigans would leap onto the ring apron and whack Brian "Goldbelt" Maxine or another such villain with her handbag. It was wild, sweaty, vulgar and massively entertaining. And like everything else I seemed to enjoy cherryade, sherbet flying saucers, DC comics - my parents fretted that it would have

They needn't have worried. itself out. My grandmother stopped going to the wrestling at Middlesbrough Town Hall. Soon after she was banned vision. The official explanation was that it was bad for her heart. Years later my mother would reveal the real reason: granny had taken to yelling so loudly and obscenely whenever Mick McManus appeared on the screen the woman next door had phoned the police.

A tidal wave of such memories will doubtless engulf Britain in the next few months thanks to Simon Garfield's wonderfully evocative book. The index of The Wrestling alone is likely to result in the cumulative loss of hundreds of ological texts.



Mick McManus: inspired obscene yells

manpower hours, as readers My passion for grappling wore run their fingers down it muttering "Logan, Steve! Ah, yes. Came from Bermondsey. Black hair. Protruding eyebrows. Put you in mind of a even from watching it on tele- caveman" and recall noisy nights in theatres, holiday camps and drill halls from Sidmouth to Aberfeldy.

The joy to be had from The Wrestling is not merely nostalgic, however. It is a brilliant piece of work which manages the considerable feat of being hilariously funny without slyness or mockery; poignant without resort to sentimentality. It also obliquely reveals a considerable amount more of the true and eccentric nature of Britishness than any number of literary novels or soci-

Using interviews with wrestlers, promoters and fans, with only the occasional, though often telling, authorial intervention, Garfield tells the story of all-in wrestling from its beginnings in Edwardian London, through its heyday in the Sixties and Seventies, to its current pathetic state, where desperate gimmicks such as "The Power 'Restlin' Rangers" are gradually hunted down and climinated by the forces of

corporate copyright enforcement. The latter not being a tag team, unfortunately. The Wrestling perfectly captures a fantastical world where erotica and mundanity bodycheck one another. Former wrestler, Brian Glover, recalls

how he began his career as

Erik Tanberg, the blond

bomber despite the apparent handicap of being born in Barnsley. We learn that Billy Torontos wanted to imitate the bullock-carrying feats of Ancient Greek wrestler Milo of Croton, but, not being able to lay hands on a bullock. used a sheep instead. There is a whole chapter devoted to the mysterious masked grappler. Kendo Nagasaki.

I saw the cunningly named Nagasaki (Karate Hiroshima doesn't have the same air of menace to it, Judo Bikini-Atoll is way too poncey-sounding) wrestle at the Town Hall early in his career. I was deeply impressed with his entrance in black cape and helmet, brandishing a samuraí sword. "He's a Japanese warrior." I told my grandad excitedly when I got back. My grandad had been an amateur boxer and regarded the wrestling in much the same way an uficionado of Wagnerian opera might the music of James Last. Japanese warrior!" he snorted, "I bet he runs a pie-stall on Stockton Market*. The Wrestling provides proof that my grandad was right. In substance if not in fact. When artist, Peter Blake observes that Kendo had a finger missing, "In Japan it's the sign of a cult, the equivalent of the Mafia". Promoter Max Crabtree responds: "The Mafia? Kendo used to be an apprentice at Jennings, the horse box makers in Crewe. That's where he got his finger severed".

I could go on and on (and believe me I already have to friends and relations) but I wouldn't want to spoil your fun. Read The Wrestling. If you don't enjoy it I'll pull Giant Haystack's beard and

Midnight in the fields of war Watching Wally die

Peter Parker celebrates the centenary of Edmund Blunden's birth

Overtones of War; Poems of the First World War by Edmund Blunden, edited by Martin Taylor, Duckworth, £16.95

he centenary of Edmund Blunden's birth on 1 November, 1896 was marked this month by a small gathering in Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey. In the presence of Blunden's widow, Claire, and other members of his family, as well as friends and admirers from as far afield as America and Japan, his biographer. Barry Webb. spoke of a long life overshadowed by two years' service as a subaltern on the Western Front. Unlike many of his contemporaries. Blunden survived the war, but he never quite escaped it. "My experiences in the First World War have haunted me all my life," he wrote in 1973, the year before his death, "and for many days I have, it seemed, lived in that world rather than

Blunden's prolonged involvement with that world is evident from Martin Taylor's exemplary centenary edition of his war poetry. Since to some extent Blunden never stopped being a "war poet". Taylor has gathered poems from the whole of his career and arranged them chronologically, starting with "October 1914", written while he was a schoolboy at Christ's Hospital, and ending with "Ancre Sunshine", written on a return to the battlefields in February, 1966. His selection consequently gives the reader a real sense of the enduring legacy of the war in Blunden's life, and the way in which the poet used his gradually receding but still vivid memories. Some of the later poems are explicitly about the war, others, such as the beautiful, Wordsworthian "The Midnight Skaters", simply but effectively borrow war's vocabulary.

The book is doubly welcome since until now the only available edition of Blunden's poetry has been a small selected volume. It should be admitted at once that a selection is all one really needs of Blunden's poetry. He was extremely prolific (an early "selected" volume, published in 1930, included 300 poems), and could turn his hand to almost any subject including "the Eighth Congress of the International Society of Blood Transfusion". Inevitably, not all of this poetry is of the highest quality. Even this volume, which collects around 170 poems, contains some duds, but that is not really the point. As Taylor comments of one early verse: "Although not a good poem Blunden never reprinted it – it is a revealing one". It is the inclusiveness of this volume, and Taylor's searching introduction to it, that give it its particular value.

Although Blunden wrote some of the best known and most enduring poems of the war - "Vlamertinghe: Passing the Chateau", "The Zonnebeke Road", "Concert Party: Busseboom". "Trench Nomenclature" - his work is rather old-fashioned, true to its beginnings in the pastoral tradition. The poetry of such contemporaries as Owen and Sassoon was transformed utterly by the war, but Blunden the mud", and only 25 of the poems in this



Edmund Blunden: "haunted all his life by his experiences in the First World War

famously put it) "a harmless young shepherd in a soldier's coat." As Taylor observes: "The understated style he had developed for his pastoral poetry took on a more ironic tone and perspective, but he was not seduced into an explicitness or savagery he could not have sustained." Except for the occasional shocking image, violence in Blunden's poetry is concentrated upon landscape rather than

Part of the reason for this is that the majority of Blunden's war poems were written after he had retired from active service. All those he wrote in the summer of 1917, during which he saw action at Passchendaele, were "lost in merely adapted his verse, remaining (as he volume were composed at the front, Taylor

suggests that at least half the poems printed as a "Supplement" to Blunden's Undertones of War were written at the same time and in the same place as the memoir: in 1924, in a hotel room in Tokyo. These poems are, however, particular and refer to locations and incidents connected with Blunden's war service. His identifying annotations (made in 1929 and 1954) have been included in Taylor's edition, along with an essay from 1934 which gives details of the various battles in which his regiment (the 11th Royal Sussex or First Southdowns, appropriately nicknamed "Lowther's Lambs") was involved.

Martin Taylor was working on this edition right up to his death in June at the age of just 39, and he oversaw its final stages from Blunden's.

a hospital bed. He had spent most of his working life in the Department of Books at the Imperial War Museum and, with his wide knowledge of the period and his meticulous attention to detail, he was the ideal choice as editor. The book now stands as a fitting memorial to both its author and its editor.

It is wholly appropriate that the sense of continuity which characterised Blunden's career should have been echoed in the celebration at Westminster Abbey, where poems from this collection were read by Taylor's partner, the actor David Goudge, and Jill Balcon, the widow of C. Day Lewis, whose

Michael Arditti is moved by a study of love and loss

Heaven's Coast by Mark Doty, Cape, £16.99

ontrary to popular belief, it is not only Jack and Jill who dream of a gentle retirement as Derby and Joan. Jack and Bill share this vision. The difference is that premature senility rather than benign old age is the fate of many gay men in the age of Aids.

The particular Jack and Bill in question are Mark Doty and Wally Roberts. In 1989, eight years into their relationship, they take an HIV test. Wally's comes back positive; Mark's negative. But so close is their bond that, as Doty movingly writes, "I remember thinking it didn't matter which of us it was, that his news was mine."

The date of the diagnosis is as marked in their lives as a shift from BC to AD. All at once, an all too familiar story is played out as Wally's health starts to fail. This is the stuff of many contemporary memoirs, but the difference here is that Doty is the award-winning poet of My Alexandria and Atlantis, and Heaven's Coast is as much a book of metaphor as of medical fact.

Doty quotes Monet's admission that, as his wife Camille lay on her deathbed, he found himself "without being able to help it, in a study of my beloved wife's face, systematically noting the colours." He himself is impelled by a similar instinct to describe the processes of Wally's decline. His love for his partner radiates so strongly from the prose that, even when he is dealing with the most graphic details of incontinence, the effect is poignant rather than sordid.

As in his poetry, Doty is able to invest the most mundane moment with a wealth of meaning. He intersperses his account of the four years between Wally's diagnosis and death with memories of an earlier, happier life. He returns to the apartment block in Boston where they lodged; although that too becomes tinged with sadness as, like the

rooming-house in Tennessee Williams's View Carré, it fills with ghosts: Bobby, his lover's ex-lover; Doug, his lover's brother's lover; David, his lover's ex-lover's lover. The litany of deaths reveals the fragile interlacing of their lives. Unlike Wally who is spared

the indignity of opportunistic infections and hospital admissions and allowed to die at home, other of Doty's friends are thrown onto the mercy of doctors. He visits one in a state hospital Aids ward which has "a quality in the air that bus terminals have". From there, it is but a short step to the memorial service with its peculiarly American blend of the grandiloquent and the grotesque. But, in case he should assume that AIDS has a monopoly on his friends' deaths, further intimations of mortality occur as two of his closest women friends die in separate car accidents.

The most vivid passages of the book are those which deal with Wally's death. Although every physical lapse is recorded, Doty does not dwell on the flesh but rather strips it away to reach to a deeper truth. He repeatedly stresses the paradox that Wally's bodily decline only serves to make him more himself. His face becomes "pure self" as "selfconsciousness, doubt, circumstance, even history" disappear. This transfiguring experience is most manifest at the moment of death, when he feels "a shift in the quality of being from the ordinary life of the room."

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In describing the aftermath of Wally's death, Doty's prose becomes numinous. Although he does not adhere to any religious system, he undergoes a deep spiritual rebirth. His honesty about his own reactions. is immensely heartening. This wise, beautifully written book is recommended for its profound insight into the nature of both love and loss.

By Jingo with Grace, Basho and other literary warriors

Geoff Nuttall is pleasantly surprised by a new anthology of war poetry

The Faber Book of War Poetry edited by Kenneth Baker, Faber, £20

soon as I opened its pages. I had assumed that there would be a War poets because "war poetry" as a term has become almost synonymous with their work. Then, I Reed, Keith Douglas, Sidney Keyes and so on from the Second World would be, as usual, excluded. I was even a surrealist, Louis Aragon.

was there. Then I looked for somefrom "In Parenthesis" about rats. Thirdly I looked for Bunting and found a fine piece of sea music from

must confess that this anthology Briggflats about a Gaelic battlefield won a small victory for itself as on Stainmore, W.S.Graham had a long poem. "The Conscript Goes", and a short poem about a homeheavy emphasis on the First World coming amputee. Pound was there with a translation from the ancient Chinese poet Basho. Jorge Luis Borges had a poem about a Briton assumed, there would be Henry and (I assume) an Argentinian, of similar loves and interests, killing one another. There was Carl Sand-War. Modernist poets. I assumed, burg, Guilliaume Appollinaire and

quite wrong.

First I looked for Dylan
Thomas's "Refusal To Mourn". It

Humbled by the nice surprise, I read on to find oddities I would not have known about, never mind expected. Grace Paley, well-known thing from David Jones and was for her terse, wry stories of post-Sixdelighted to find a short extract ties New York, contributes a "found" poem consisting entirely of the loss-statistics of a Vietnamese village. I have long been an admirer

know his war poetry. It was good to find it here and interesting to note how, alongside Hamish Henderson, Sorley MacLean, W.S. Graham and the great McDiarmid, he demonstrates how well-suited the Scottish voice is when it comes to dealing with the ironies and dislocation of war. Emily Dickinson was not known to me as a war poet. Neither was Dorothy Parker, while Edgar Wallace was not known to me as a poet at all but here are three dynamic stanzas about a hospital tent adroitly juxtaposed with Walt Whitman on the same subject.

There are omissions. August Stramm's onomatopoeic squibs should be here. One short excerpt from "In Parenthesis" is not enough from the finest long poem

MacNeice is represented only by "Streets Of Laredo". He penned stronger stuff in those perilous years. There are poems of warmongering from Arabic, Oriental and Ancient Greek cultures so maybe a Hutu war chant might have been dug out. There is noth-ing from the American Indian war-rior-culture. And, apart from the Borges piece, where the location is not specified, the Falklands deba-

of Robert Garioch but I didn't about war to have appeared in this stroke with total subjective cercentury of terrible wars. Louis tainty because there is no time for postponement. It is also possible to see that the verse collected here falls into four main categories - Folk, Bombast, Heroic and Undeceived. The folk material is well represented. There is the superb ballad, Arthur McBride, and a whole bunch of bawdy songs culled from those collected by Martin Page.

Bombast comes by the yard and there's never a shortage, least of all cle seems not to have been inspirational.

But for all that the net is wide.

It makes it possible to see that war enables poets, and, indeed, artists in general, to avoid the tentative and the moderated, to realise that the best work is done at a server a shortage, least of all here. These are the recruiting songs, the patriotic pop-anthems and the victory-celebration pieces. The original "By Jingo" lyric is included. There's a lot of kipling but I wouldn't put him in this category. His is the rattle of a different drum.

The heroic poetry here is predominantly ancient - long extracts from *The Iliad*, from Hebrew and Islamic texts. Christopher Logue's free "accounts" of the books of The Iliad achieve a fresh crispness that the close translations of George Chapman are denied. Something has gone from the human make-up since this work was written and probably a good thing too.

The real surgical knife of art goes into the rotten hulk of war in the undeceived work of the 20th can

undeceived work of the 20th century, starting with Wilfred Owen. Siegfried Sassoon and all the hurt boys who suffered the helpiessness of the Somme and saw the vile wastage. There is superb and uncompromising work from the Second World War and the Viet-

Kenneth Baker doesn't order his book into the categories listed: above. His anthology is divided according to subject matter, from Dulce Et Decorum Est through The Patriotic Imperative, Off To The Wars, Martial Music, Recruiting and Remembrance and Peace; 66 sections in all. While this makes for variety it also seems to imply a distanced attitude to the subject, a sort of literary Imperial War Museum whose curator assumes that war is here to stay and that these are its many remarkable faces, a display created by a man who neither rattles swords nor kisses doves; but then, perhaps an editor may bear some psychological_ disadvantages when you recall under whom he served.

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Paperbacks -



By Christopher Hirst and Lucasta Miller

The Alan Coren Omnibus (Robson, £12.99) Expect no willo'-the-wisp whims from the outstanding humorist of the day. Staggeringly inventive, Coren generates pungent, heavy-duty chortles. Comparisons with the great Perelman are not far out, but Coren is ruder and has better punch-lines. This haul of 72 gems from 35 years has a dangerously high laugh-out-loud quotient. exemplified by Highgrove vegetables ruminating on Prince Charles ("One of nature's gentlemen', said the sprout. 'You'd never think the bastard was a vegetarian"") and an Aussie Oedipus ("I've only gone and married me flaming mummy"). But why are they undated? This is social history hidden in the guise of a gag.

The Body Emblazoned by Jonathan Sawday (Routledge, £12.99) Under the punning title --

"blazon" also meant to hack apart in Elizabethan England - Sawday has written a dazzling, scholarly work about the dark Renaissance obsession with dissection. He reveals the parallels between Donne's eroticism ("License my roaving hands...") and early anatomical works in which the surgeon is portrayed giving "a gesture of ownership." Female bodies were particularly sought after in order to probe "the rebellious nature of womankind." From these gory eviscerations came the first recognition of 'selfhood." The metaphor of dissection was central to our greatest literary era. Sawday's disturbing, revelatory work is a

Boychiks in the Hood by Robert Eisenberg (Quartet, £9.00) While secular Jews continue to assimilate, the ultra-orthodox Hasidim are thriving. In a

century's time, they may be the only significant Jewish communities outside Israel. This snappy tour (by a secular Californian Jew) of fundamentalist communities from Brooklyn to Belgium reveals them to be far more approachable and buoyant than their austere appearance suggests. From the wealthy Hasidim of Los Angeles, he moves to the tough remnants of Polish Jewry ("the human embodiments of beef jerky") and, finally, Gateshead, the "intellectual solar plexus" of United Kingdom orthodoxy. Funny, if occasionally aggravating, Eisenberg is an engaging guide.

Granta 5: Childhood (£7.99) The latest number of the booklength literary magazine is devoted to the subject of childhood and parenting. Thirteen writers and a photographer provide an excellent mix of

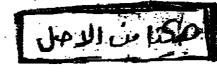


memoirs, fiction and reportage. Adam Mars-Jones's biographical study of his mother is as beautifully constructed as a great short story; Blake Morrison offers a frank and controversial exploration of childhood and sexuality; and Tony Gould recalls his masochistic relationship with a bullying prefect in a painful account of his days at public

Dissected figure from Vesalius, 'De Humani Corporis Fabrica',

school. On the fiction side, an extract from a forthcoming novel by Jayne Anne Phillips whets the: appetite with its raw, uncompromising exploration of motherhood and birth.

Mr Ives' Christmas by Oscar Hijuelos (Bloomsbury £5.99) Unbearably sad, movingly understated novel set in New York. The hero is an advertising executive whose modest ambition is to lead a happy and stable family life. When his teenage son is murdered in particularly meaningless circumstances by a poor young Puerto Rican, the bereaved father reveals a capacity for forgiveness and a moral strength which are anything but ordinary. Don't be put off by the fact that the central character is so uncomplicatedly good - there's nothing gratuitously sentimental about this parable of grief, loss



Eccentric outings: the Keith Harding musical museum...11

Fresh air forays:

a walk on Exmoor..17

Itching travel & outdoors

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fantasy seizes the spirit and urges you to

see and feel the place for yourself. But when

you arrive in the now united city the

search for its soul takes some baffling twists.

(Freedom Night), 9 November 1989, when

the crumbling East German state removed

the vicious travel restrictions to the West

that had kept the people prisoners of their

ideology for 28 years. The announcement

was buried in the news bulletin after an

item respectfully heralding the Fourth

Party Conference of the ruling SED -

Considering that the child christened

Freedom was seven years old last Sat-

urday, there was little by way of birthday

celebrations. Indeed, the child is by now

unwanted - at least by some. "It would

be better if we were still separate," a

Wessi (West Berliner) told me. "We are

tired of paying for all the mistakes of

"It would be better if we were still separate." an Ossi insisted. "We had safe

jobs, cheap housing and good hospitals."

This week, unemployment in Germany

ily adapts to new circumstances. Berlin

is prime research material. While the

city at the heart of Europe recovers from

its hypass operation, you must expect

some surprises. Walking north along

Friedrichstrasse, just as I had done

early in 1989, you find the way blocked

- just as in 1989. This time, the obstruc-

As a study in how humanity so read-

hit four million.

Socialist Unity Party of Germany.

The world changed on Freiheit Nacht

Back to the wall

Reunified Berlin is making heroic efforts to come to terms with its history. By Simon Calder

grave of the DDR. So you have to take a wide detour, across what was no-man's-land, before getting into step again on Friedrichstrasse. But at least the labourers don't take DM25 from you, fill your passport with an obliteration of arcane Gothic

characters and - in a cold, heavy sweat -

make you believe you have transgressed

various articles of the East German Constitution. No: they carry on building. The wound that the wall created is being painstakingly stitched back together. Accordingly, the latest tourist attraction is the biggest building site in

In Berlin, the Info Box is not the travel information section at the end of this story; it is a bright red cube on stilts that presides like a conductor over the massed ranks of tower cranes busily building their

Potsdamer Platz. While the cranes duck and delve into the foundations of Berlin, visitors to the Info Box may take a trip through four dimensions. Three physical dimensions are created by a succession of virtual reality screens which take you down the time line to 31 December 1999 - when the Sony Centre at the heart of the new development is due to open. As this electronic magic carpet whizzes you around, from the Filmhaus to the Mediathek, you begin to see its resonances between the vast, intimidating, canopied hall of the new venture and the architecture of the Third Reich.

The majestic movie Wings of Desire tion isn't because you are approaching Much of the administrative infra-is a tender portrait of humanity the door between two worlds. It is structure that enabled Adolf Hitler's transcending the evils of a divided because someone is building the Check-regime to terrorise the world has vanished into American, British, French and Soviet affectations of scale from both. ind names) to admod bu dozers. The Führer's bunker lies beneath a car park, with footballing youngsters unaware of the horrors that were perpetrated beneath their nimble feet. The headquarters of the Gestapo and SS survived the war, but were flattened shortly afterwards - though only as far as the ground floor. The foundations, and the dungeons where victims of the secret police were tortured, have survived. Some of these ruins lie exposed in the Prinz-Albrecht-Terrain, named after the Prussian prince who built a palace on the site, later commandeered by the SS. Nowadays this blank space seems a peculiarly rural flourish so close to the heart of a mod-

> could possibly be constructed on the territory of terror? About the only possible answer is the diminutive hut that now occupies one corner of this forlorn field. The Topography of Terror is an exhibition hall: here, the horrors invoked by Heinrich Himmler and his fellow "armchair killers", plus the Gestapo who took a viciously hands-on approach to their victims, are portrayed by silent testimony of unemotional words and grainy pictures, set against the un-

> ern, brash city. But what decent building

forgiving prison walls.

Berliners are confronted constantly by their past. Up to 1945, millions were killed by a programme of Fascism directed from Berlin. After 1945, the city was divided by the conquering powers who then fought their proxy battles in the negotiating chamber, where frontiers were carved arbitrar-

Much of the administrative infra- ily through communities, streets and lives. thoroughfare leads one way to Paris, and

sectors, so Berlin was drawn and quartered on military maps. The Western powers lumped their zones together and built a glossy new city from the ashes though well away from the original centre (imagine a divided London re-establishing itself around the Brent Cross area, and you get the idea. Not much in the way of tourist attractions, but plenty of space for shiny shops). The East became Berlin, Hauptstadt der DDR - capital of the German Democratic Republic, Ossified (no pun intended) for 40 years, it was Middle Europe's most atmospheric city because, and in spite of, the ludicrous bureaucracy you had to tangle with before

being begrudgingly admitted. One effect of what was cynically termed the anti-Fascist protection barrier was to keep the heart of Europe in suspended animation. The trick the people have accomplished is to breathe new life into the old city, while stopping short of

killing it with capitalism. Now, you can amble through the mix of heroic and horrid architecture. Every now and again you catch a whiff of harsh tobacco smoke and rougher schnapps from a café doorway, and are reassured that if the person opposite wants to shop in the Kurfürstendamm, all she need do is keep walking straight through the

Brandenburg Gate. Not that many people these days care to venture to West Berlin's main shopping street. It seems bland, almost tawdry, compared with the grace of the avenues in the East. Unter den Linden, the main

Just as the whole of Germany was split the other to Moscow, and has picked up

Ranged along this boulevard are masterpieces like the state opera house and the cathedral - plus a risible relic of communism. Not the gigantic bronze statue of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels though the comic duo look alarmingly pleased with themselves as they survey the surroundings - but the ludicrous Television Tower, a needle sticking into space a virtuous spiral. The twisted roots of faswhich resembles something you might find in an over-the-top cocktail. The bulge near the top is not maraschino cherry, but a café designed to permit East Germans to peer down upon their erstwhile fellow citizens in the West. Nowadays it just looks silly and vulnerable. Perhaps a new use will be found for it, in the way that other oddments of a tortu-

Cathedral), that marks the centre of the 19th-century city. Like much in Berlin, it was devastated by Allied bombing in 1945. The cathedral has just reopened as a civic museum, tracing the often terrible history of Berlin over the past 150 years. Visitors and residents step into a cylinder of history that wraps itself around the coarse red-brick interior of the church in cism are on permanent show - confronting the past just as the Info Box lets you look into the future at Potsdamer Platz. The crowning moment of the exhibition is simple: two television sets.

ous civic history have been adapted.

Take the Deutsche Dom. (German

replaying endlessly the bulletins of 9 November 1989. On the Eastern set, a po-faced sermon gives no acknowledgecontinued on page 10

Berlin essentials

Getting there: KLM (0181-750 9000) is offering a fare of £141.80 including tax, travelling from airports in the London area via Amsterdam to Tegel airport in Berlin. Flights from other UK airports are available for slightly higher fares.

Getting around: On Berlin's excellent public transport system the basic fare is DM 3.90 (£1.60), allowing two hours of travel on the S-bahn (suburban railway), U-bahn (Underground railway), buses and trams. The Welcome Card (24 hours

of unlimited travel and discounts on attractions) costs DM 16 (£6,40). Better still is the DM 20 (£8) family card, allowing 24 hours of travel for two adults and up to three children.

Getting advice: The German National Tourist Office's UK bureau is at 65 Curzon Street, London W1Y 8NE (0171-493 0080), but it opens only 12 noon to 5pm. Monday-Friday. You can order brochures on a premium-rate number, 0891 600102. The Odvssey Illustrated Guide to Berlin by Gordon McLachlan (£11.95) is a well-researched and entertaining guide.

Call now or see your travel agent. All fares listed are return from London, All fares may be subject to limited availability and travel periods. Passenger taxes excluded. For details and conditions see ITV Teletext page 380, your travel agent or British Airways Travel Shop.

For these and many other World Offers call: 0345 222111

Book by 27th November '96.

WORLD OFFERS **BRITISH AIRWAYS**

The world's favourite airline

continued from page 9

ment that the world has just turned upside down. Meanwhile, on the Western screen, the ARD newsreader cannot conceal his delight as he does his stumbling best to read the autocue as a broad smile keeps encroaching, with the unmis-takable subliminal message that "As soon as I've finished my shift. I'm off to join the party at the Brandenburg Gate."

Tonight, though, they're not going to party like it's 1989. A trawl through the listings of Zitty magazine, between the columns of Luste & Liebe and Fetische-Fantasy classifieds, revealed a paucity of celebration. The seven-year itch was being scratched only at the Volksbuhne, a triumphant emporium on Rosa-Luxemburg Platz. All the trendy things from East and West meet here, either in the Red or the Green salon. Each venue is comfortably retro - an easy enough image to maintain when all your soft furnishings are made in the DDR and therefore look as though they came from the Co-op, circa 1960.

Here you are on the fringe of the Prenzlauer Berg, the antidote to numerous Soviet incursions on the fabric of the city. Prim 19th-century tenements look as tidily bourgeois as ever they did, while the street level has witnessed an explosion of chic cafés. In a decade, this neighbourhood will help Berlin reach the top of the league of genteel decadence once again.

Vitality is being breathed back into the synagogues, too. Prenzlauer Berg was the core of the Jewish community until the dreadful Kristallnacht on 9 November 1938, when 23 synagogues were wrecked by the Nazis, along with countless Jewish proper-ties. The old Jewish cemetery and new synagogue are now slowly being restored.

At last, I shall mention it: the Wall. The

casual weekend visitor to Berlin need never know it ever existed, so effective has been the civic surgery. Almost every con-crete inch of the 103-mile wall has been removed, sold off to souvenir hunters or reduced to rubble to build foundations for a new city. Only in a subdued suburb a few miles north of the Brandenburg Gate has Die Mauer - the most notorious symbol of the cold war - been remembered. The Mauerpark is a gentle swathe of green that nuzzles against the still-graffiti-strewn section of wall. Here noman's-land has become everyone's playground. Giant, grown-up swings allow you to rise high enough to see over the wall and to reconcile the two halves of the city beneath a sky full of benign stars. As you swing ever higher, simple harmonic motion replaces the weariness with a sense of joyful liberation. As each swoop lifts you still higher, you feel like an extra in the next Wim Wenders film.

I know what to call it, too: Swings of

To Berlin by Jaguar, Audi, Nissan

On 12 October readers were invited to enter a competition to join The Independent's travel editor on a trip to east Germany. The method of transport: hitching. Simon Calder and the winner, Alison Clements, report on their journey

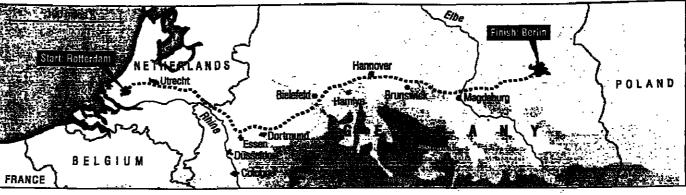
he weather forecaster had set the tone for the weekend early on Friday morning: "It's been the coldest night of the winter so far". The sparkle danced from a few fragments of frost, and I shivered. This was to be a long, cold day.

As Leonard Cohen nearly sang.

it looked easy on paper: first, we take Rotterdam, then we take Berlin. We had planned a train-ship-train ordeal to the furthest east station in Holland. But the strange economics of international travel meant that it was cheaper to hop by air to Rotterdam, taking in a hot breakfast en route. Hitch-hikers must suspend all normal human functions, such as eating, so this was an asset.

You can trace a straight line from Europe's busiest port due east through Osnabrück and Hannover to Berlin, 430 miles of autobahn. Now all we needed was a lift.

Newcomers can bring a fresh approach to an activity. Alison



eschewed several of the established conventions of hitch-hiking. I had not previously encountered the practice of walking down the middle of the central reservation while thumbing a ride, nor dancing by the roadside. Nor had I thought of holding the destination board at such an angle that most motorists could not read it until they had driven past. This "tease"

certainly intrigued some drivers. A three-hour wait, like the one outside Utrecht, can serve to focus on supposed deficiencies. Alison's declaration "I should have brought my daughter instead - everyone would stop for her" wasn't the sort of thing to keep the spirits up. Morale was flagging: after all, in four hours we had cov-

turbo-charged Audi was just what the hitching spin-doctor ordered. border, Hardmut put his foot Hardmut came round the corner a moment after I had replaced the two failed hitching signs "Berlin bitte" and "Hengelo or Arnhem" with one simply reading "Germany please". The implication that we were (a) British and (b) ered just 40 miles. So a lift in a He could help with a 100-mile hop and the sun was setting fast. Being

into Germany. As we crossed the down and we began hurtling east at 200kph. Soon the lost time was being replenished.

He dropped us on the edge of the tangle of autobahnen in the Ruhr, where Dortmund runs into Essen and hitchers run into trouble. Berlin was 300 miles beyond,

stuck all night at this breeze-blown Rasiplan seemed inevitable. What we needed was a Berliner delivering a brand-new Nissan to a customer, who could converse elegantly in English, and take us. straight to the heart of Berlin. The red-and-white numberplate signifying a trade driver pulled up. Hello, Raif.

In contrast with the 12-hour, three-lift race across Europe, the return journey involved seven hops and took two hours longer.

It also cost £20. It was by train. On the journey back I defended the concept of hitch-hiking against some intensive lobbying from Alison. She thought the competition prize should have been a flight to

"I didn't mind it, but I wouldn't let my daughters do it." Alison's daughters, Sarah and Emma, are 23 and 26 years old respectively.

'One advantage of hitch-hiking is meeting interesting people ... but I'd rather have spent the time in Berlin'

ithin an hour of leaving riding in a lorry driver's cab, Rotterdam Airport we though I had taken the precaution Rotterdam Airport we had flagged down our first knight in shining paintwork. Between describing his various homes and the refit of his yacht, Franz outlined his policy on hitch-hiking. He always picked people up, he said, to repay the lifts he had received as a student. Indicating the sumptuous leather upholstery of his Jaguar, he said: 'I think it is also nice for them to ride in such a car". You bet it was. However, he dropped us on the wrong side of Utrecht, where we had our longest wait for a lift. Lift two also featured a quality

car, this time an Audi driven by German businessman Hardmut. I was beginning to warm to the idea of hitch-hiking. I hadn't fancied

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of packing a few Yorkie bars.

Lift three was a hitch-hiker's dream. Hardmut had dropped us off in the middle of nowhere, and the temperature was dropping by the sec-ond. Then Ralf stopped and offered to take us all the way to Berlin. He even dropped us at a handy S-bahn station. Thirteen hours after my one breakfast and Simon's two, we were sampling a cheap tourist menu at a Berlin restaurant.

Hitch-hiking was an interesting and occasionally hair-raising experience. I had to close my eyes when Hardmut's speedo topped 200km. Second-hand car dealer Ralf was delivering a Nissan with almost nothing on the clock; the at our hostel. An all-night session cisely nothing and cost about 20 hiking is character building. I speedometer seemed mysteri- was ruled out, as we had to leave hours' travelling time. I'd rather wouldn't do it again. I would, how-

One advantage of hitch-hiking is meeting interesting people. Franz was in heavy-duty removals, transporting anything from reactors to submarines. Hardmut, from the former West Germany, revealed a philosophical approach to the problems which have followed unification. "I think in 30 years no one knows about the DDR. It from the former East Germany, seemed indifferent to his newfound freedom. "A lot of people want the wall back," he told us. We celebrated the anniversary of plus the flight to Rotterdam, was the wall coming down, and my birthday, in the company of a jolly little band of people we had met

ously to have been disconnected. the hostel at 6.30am to catch a train back to Rotterdam. Or more precisely, several trains. A special weekend deal allows up to five people to travel anywhere in Germany for about £14. At the German border we crossed to Hengelo and took another train to Rotterdam and stayed in a youth hostel where the air in the dormitory was heavy with the scent of dope. It was needs time." Astonishingly, Ralf, too late for dinner, which would have been the first meal of the day.

I ate a packet of crisps.
And the final reckoning? The cost of train tickets on the return leg, about the same as a direct flight to Berlin. Hitching and investigating the rail system had saved pre-



Alison on the road

have spent the time in Berlin. Despite Simon's claims that hitchhiking is character building. I

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ever, visit Berlin, perhaps on the 10th anniversary of unification when Germany's new capital should have become a coherent whole city. By then perhaps the supply of pieces of wall, still available in tacky souvenir shops throughout the city, may have dried up.

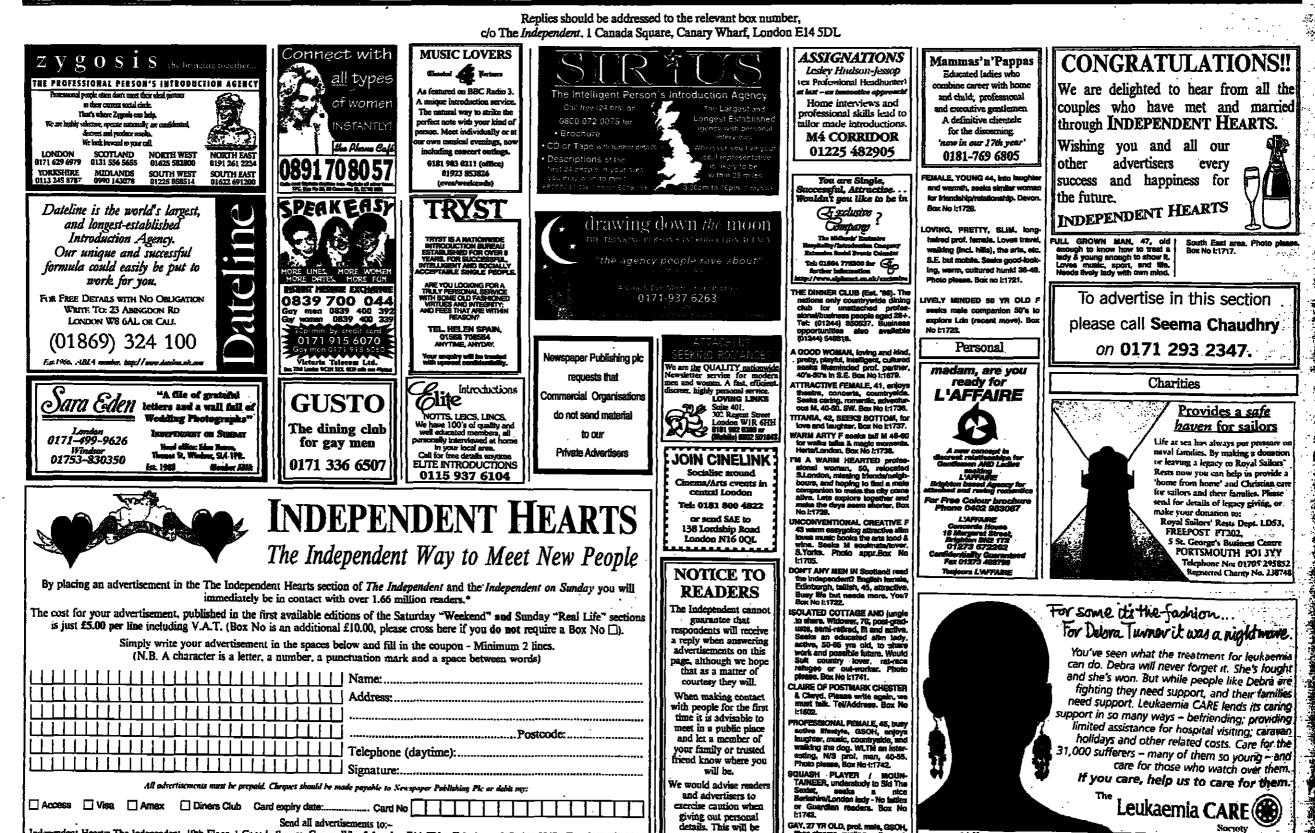
My most pervasive memory of Berlin is a park created in what was no-man's-land. Alongside a remaining section of the wall. large-scale swings allow adults to soar through the air. untram-melled by the constraints of officialdom. These swings are not for children. "I feel liberated," said Simon, working his legs enthusi-astically. "I think that's the point,"

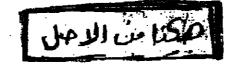
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ENH VIEW

Dance to the music of time

The O'Brien family visits the World of Mechanical Music in Gloucestershire

The venue

The World of Mechanical Music is a tiny museum, a single, genteel room crammed with apparently sombre old instruments. But the space is soon filled with an astonishing variety of sounds as the guide brings each object to life - barrel organ, musical box, polyphon, automaton, pianola ... This is an eccentric extended family of magnificent music machines.

The collection belongs to Keith Harding and Cliff Burnett, both horologists. Keith is Europe's leading authority on cylinder- and disc-playing musical boxes.

The tour traces the development of

mechanical music from 18th-century cylinder boxes to a magnificently mellow Thirties EMG hand-made gramophone. The most prized piece is a Steinway concert piano with a Welte reproducing mechanism that plays exact performances.

The automata are equally entertaining - a lion loses his head to a lion tamer, Joey the clown scrapes a bow across his violin. The collection of clocks is displayed in a small annexe which is currently being redecorated.

The visitors

Sarah O'Brien, a ceramics specialist with Sotheby's, and her husband, Charlie, head of 19th-century paintings at Bonham's, took their children, Alice, eight, and

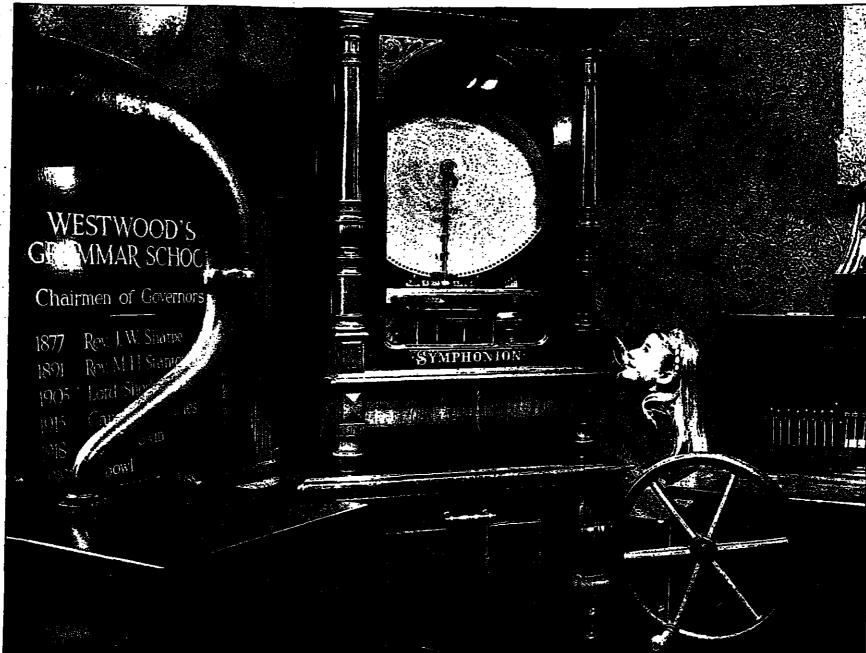
Sarah: There was a really good combination of attractive objects, good music, interesting history and an entertaining guide. I was concerned that Alice and George would get bored being talked to by a guide in one small room, but they loved it.

The music included old favourites like "Rule Britannia", the "Ride of the Valkyries" and tunes by Scott Joplin. I liked the way each instrument was put in its historical context: how many months' salary it would cost to buy, and what room it may have been played in, and when. It was the social history that maintained my interest: the mechanical history lost me. I would have liked a small guide book explaining the basics of how things worked because there was so much to take in.

enthusiasts. I was glad the guide showed us the instruments chronologically to give ury to the present.

The Cafe Orchestrian was in its original condition, unrestored and unpolished; just as it would have been sitting in the café with people bumping into it, pouring beer and wine over it.

The Steinway concert piano impressed



An eccentric extended family: the World of Mechanical Music

Charlie: The museum is run by genuine cert performance given by the Polish com-

Alice: It was a very small museum but there was lots to see. Most of all I liked the musical boxes. My favourite was a lovely one Queen Victoria gave to an Indian maharaja. It was really big with a huge cylinder in it, lots of shining bells and a singing bird - me most. To be able to sit and hear a con- sitting in a sort of forest.

George: The tour was just the right length. poser Paderewski. long dead, was a real I didn't get bored but I did sit down near treat. It was quite eerie to see the keys mov- the end. I understood what the man was Keith Harding's World of Mechanical a sense of development from the 18th cent- ing on their own, but fascinating to watch. saying some of the time, not always, but I Music. The Oak House, High Street, £4; children, £2.50; family ticket, £12.50. want to dance. I knew the William Tell overture because we sing it at home when we

are in a hurry to get to school. I liked the little musical snuff box most of all, with the singing bird in it. When the music stopped he had to go back in really quickly before the lid snapped down.

enjoyed it. Some of the music made me Northleach. Gloucestershire (01451 Shop: Excellent selection of gifts: 860181): Northleach is just off between Oxford and Cheltenham. Access: There is a small car park behind the museum. Entrance to the museum is through the shop. Disabled access. Opening times: Daily 10am-6pm, closed

Christmas Day. Last tour 5pm. Private

Photograph: John Lawrence

groups of more than 10 people can make evening appointments.

Admission: Adults, £5; OAPs and students. temporary automata, cuckoo clocks, brain-teasers.

Toilets: The museum toilets show signs of age; use the public toilets in main square.

Catherine Stebbings

'Are we nearly there?"

A weekly round-up for outings for children

he pantomime season swings into action at the end of November. Since pantos are perennially popular, especially during the school holidays, if you plan to treat the family it's best to book as early as possible. Otherwise it could be a case of "Oh no you don'i",

Cinderella, Bristol Old Vic: Billed as "a traditional family pantomime", complete with song, dance and audience participation. It runs from 5 December to 25 January, Box office: 0117 9877877.

Jack and the Beanstalk, New Theatre, Cardiff: Suc Pollard takes centre stage in this tale of a young lad, his mother, and his magical plant. From 14 December to 25 January, Box office: 01222 878889

The Wizard of Oz, Citizens Theatre, Glasgow: More children's theatre than panto, with many of the populars from the MGM film, From 3 December to 18 January, Box office: 0141 4290022

Beauty and the Beast, Theatre Royal Stratford East: Suitable for all ages - the beast is large but not scary. From 30 November to 25 January, at 2.15pm and 7.15pm (with a few exceptions). Box office: 0181-534

Dick Whittington, Tameside **Hippodrome:** Plenty of chance for the audience to join in the fun as Dick becomes a worthy citizen. From 20 December to 12 January. Box office: 0161-308

Cinderella, Oldham Coliseum: Another chance to see the Ugly Sisters get their comeuppance. From 29 November to 11 January. Box office: 0161-6242829

Dick Whittington, Salisbury Playhouse: From 7 December to 11 January, 2.15 pm and 7.15pm. Box Office: 01722 320333

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Mayflower Theatre. Southampton: Guest Akabusi, Lionel Blair – and Mr Blobby. From 19 December to 9 February. Box office: 01703

Philippa Czernin



something to declare

Picture this

Are you proud of your travel photographs? Would you like to see them on display to the public? If the answer to these two questions is yes then you should enter the Wanderlust photo travel competition,

sponsored by The Independent and Canon. The winner will receive £1,000worth of camera equipment and the best 25 entries will be displayed at Destinations '97, to be held in London's Olympia from 6 to 9 February

All entries must be accompanied by an official entry form - which you can get by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Wanderlust (Photo Competition), PO Box 1832, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 6YP.

Bargain of the week

The fares war on scheduled services to Spain that has been rumbling all year enters the final straight with a £104 offer from Iberia (0171-830

The Spanish airline is selling

True or false

Richard Branson wishes you a happy

True, providing you are flying on a Virgin Atlantic flight on the day (don't forget about the passport check, when any subterfuge will be uncovered) and a friend has tipped off the airline. He or she will have to call the Special Assistance Department on 01293 747691, between two days and two months in advance. The options include an onboard anniversary announcement, a cake, champagne or chocolates though only the first of these is free.

return tickets at this (tax inclusive) fare from Heathrow to Barcelona or Palma de Mallorca, or from Gatwick to Madrid. You must book at least three days in advance and stay away on a Saturday night.



Visitors' book Rotterdam youth hostel

Sitting down, chilling out, playing pool and eating Munchies. It's a hard life, but I'll struggle on - Catherine

O'Doherty, Limerick. I didn't know what to expect of Rotterdam, but I certainly wasn't disappointed. My favourite bar is Rotown (at Nieuwe Binnenweg 19]: great atmosphere, nice people -David Gunning, London.

Make sure you visit the Dizzy jazz café! - Anon | but quite possibly the proprietor of the

Travel: I have seen the moon shine on the other side of the world. I am different now -

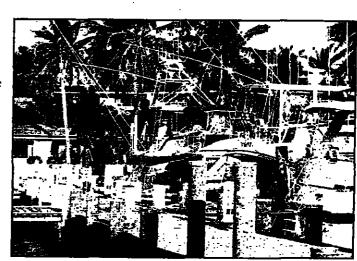
Trouble spots

Caribbean caution

Haiti: Driving in Haiti is a hazardous free-for-all, but some find it exhilarating. The streets are narrow, with many sharp bends. Vehicles swerve unexpectedly to avoid potholes. Cars often don't stop in an accident, so, to avoid paving the high insurance excess, keep a pen and paper handy to take down a number if necessary -Caribbean Islands Handbook 1997 (Footprint, £14.99).

Jamaica: the US State Department says: "crime is a serious problem in Kingston" and urges visitors to exercise caution if travelling to the Jamaican capital. Since January, there have been more than 750 murders on the island.

Barbados (above): there are fewer hucksters on the main beaches these days, but you will probably be offered the traditional array of services, including hair-braiding, tropical



shirts and African carvings. They can be very persistent (and quite persuasive) when they get going - from The Southeastern Caribbean by James Henderson (Cadogan,

The Windward Islands: if you hear a hurricane is on the way, find the strongest concrete bunker you can find and shelter in it with everyone else. If it all goes quiet at the height of the storm, then you are in the eye: batten down the hatches because it will start again in a few minutes - Discover Dominica (free tourist guide)

Dominica: avoid walking deserted streets at night. Walk with a companion. Avoid drug pushers - Ibid.



A Special Announcement

An Autumn Visit to Southern Africa

including 6 nights at the 5-star deluxe Meikles Hotel & optional visits to Victoria Falls & Game Pari

For seven departures only we shall be operating A week away from £395.00 special flight at an especially low tariff to the lovely city of Harare, with its fine museums housing the artefacts of David Livingstone. We have a small number of seats available over the period allowing us to make a special offer of six nights in the famous

and 5-star deluxe Meikles Hotel. Besides visiting the many sights in and around Harare there are a host of excursion possibilities to the nearby game reserves and the highland areas such as Leopard's Rock. Excursions can be booked in advance to the tourist areas of the famous Victoria Palls (by air) and the Bally Vaughn Game Park.
Alternatively you may wish to hire a car and explore
the country independently.
This is an unique opportunity to visit southern
Africa at a fraction of the normal tariff. The price

includes return flights from London Ganvick to Harare, transfers and six nights' accommodation. Flights are by non-stop, wide-bodied, scheduled seat configured Boeing 767 aircraft.

THE MEIKLES HOTEL, HARARE

Voted Africa's finest hotel, Meikles is centrally located in Harare. It has a host of public facilities

including a swimming pool, a number of time re taurants, a coffee shop, travel desk for local excu sions and shops. The guest rooms are all air-conditioned with full facilities including TV.

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Milk float driver records fastest time from Land's **End to John** O'Groats. Microsoft® AutoRoute Express™5.0.

In the wake of the snake

Sue and Peter Gearing go walkabout in the Dreamtime

re emerged from the cool denseness of the jarrah forest to be greeted by Michael and a brew of tea. We could smell the tea, spiced with a handful of gum heated up in a blackened billy, the smoke from the fire helped the sat bay. "The gum leaves are the sun was starting to dip and the shadleaves, as it heated up in a blackened billy. Meanwhile, the smoke from the fire helped to keep the flies at bay. "The gum leaves are traditional," said Michael. "Gives it a bit of

This was just one interlude on a section of Western Australia's first long-distance trail, the 1,000km Bibbulmun Track, stretching from Perth down to Albany on the Southern Осеап.

The track has been named after the Bibbulmun, a tribe of Aborigines who once inhabited the south-west corner of Western Australia, and we were following a mythical aboriginal snake - the Waugal. Legend has it that when large number of the Bibbulmun people fell from grace, the true believers were saved from a great flood when the Creator, in the form of a Waugal, pointed the way to safety. Today, the Waugal is the waymark sign, appearing every 200 metres - so there's little chance of getting lost.

The boiling billy fitted the Aussie stereo-type, and so did Michael, an easy-going farmer who had built his own house from mud bricks and was earning a bit of extra money as our driver, taking us to and from the Bibbulmun track.

But we hadn't been prepared for the Australian bush we encountered - not the scrubby, poisonous reptiles. This sleek specimen few uphill sections. windblown terrain of so many films, but a lush merely slithered away into the undergrowth

Overseas Travel

The sun was starting to dip and the shadows lengthened as we wearily followed the track through an area of wattle where the yellow flowers had withered to a crumbly brown. We were not prepared for the almost primeval sight that met us when we rounded a bend and reached the end waters of the Stirling Dam. There stood stark, skeletal trees, looking as if they were holding their arms outstretched in protest years after their land had been

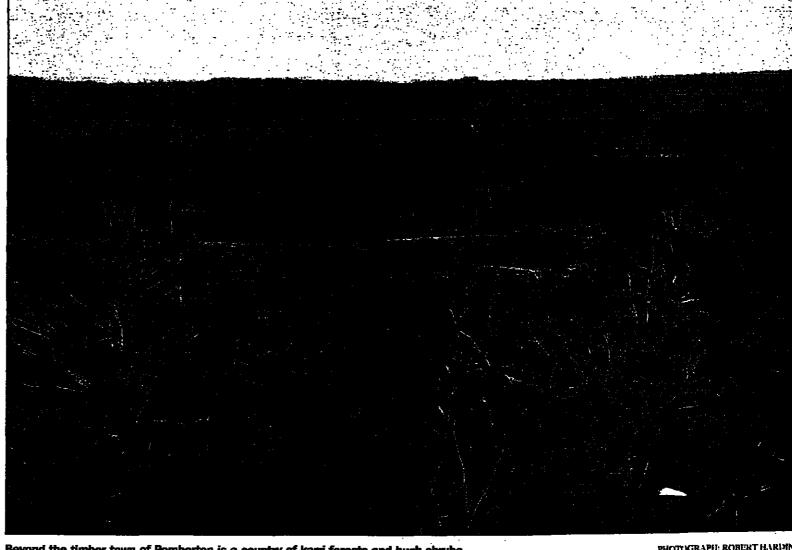
Our second walk on the Bibbulmun was further south near the timber town of Pemberton and the start of even mightier forests those of karri, the third largest tree in the world. We felt insignificant as we followed the well-marked track, with the silver grey trunks of the trees soaring up around us.

The undergrowth is different here. Instead

It was safely leading us on a 20km stretch from Hoffman's Mill, near the thriving dairy town of Harvey, south the Stirling Dam.

The different range of the tent in the thriving the scent of the tea tree perfume, we enjoyed the scent of Western Australian peppermint and identified a different range of bush shrubs and flowers as well as other kinds of wattle and bottlebrush, orchid-like trigger plants and several yellow-and-red cowslip orchids just coming in bloom in November.

It was here, basking on the banks by the orchids, that we encountered our first snake, a four -foot dugite, one of Western Australia's



Beyond the timber town of Pemberton is a country of karri forests and bush shrubs

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The trail took us by old railway tracks, where, during the logging operations of Twen-ties, wood-burning engines used to haul massive karri logs to the Pemberton sawmills. The karris are indeed giants and can reach heights of more than 80 metres. On a day off from trekking, we visited one of the most famous karris - the Gloucester Tree, a 60m fire lookout named after a former Governor General of Australia.

One of the attractions of the Bibbulmun is that for the foot-sore, it is not hard to find things to do on one's day off. We refreshed ourselves at one of the well-established wineries, Cullens, where we sat at a scrubbed wooden table sipping fruity wines while the vineyard's friendly mongrel sat under our bench, ever hopeful of being fed.

In reality, however, it was never difficult to respond to the lure of the track, where none of the walking is difficult and there are very Steady bushwalking takes you into the

lying behind a prominent mud castle built by heart of a territory that would have been familiar to the early settlers. They, too, would have walked through the jarrah and the karri forests and would probably been as impressed as we were by the sight of the wildflowers, kookaburras, brilliant kingfishers, lizards, snakes and wandering emus.

> For more information about the Bibbulmun track: contact Jesse Brampton, Project Office, c/o Calm, PO Box 104, COMO, Western Australia (0061 9 334 0265); or the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs 0061 9 457 4757
> Safety: Walkers need to be well equipped.

> Stretches of the track are far from civilisation and lonely. It's hot in the day but cold at night. Common sense rules apply. Ensure that somebody knows your starting and finishing points and times. Local offices of Calm will help. Climate: Maximum temperatures are 30C from December to March with a year-round minimum rarely below 10C. Rainfall is lightest from November to March (20mm and below) and heaviest from May to August (130mm to 180mm).

> > Caribbean

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The Independent's

The Bibbulmun Track

Though the Bibbulmun Track will not be finished until the end of 1997, the idea behind it has been around for more than a quarter of a century. The first length was completed in 1974 and, as part of Australia's Bicentennial Trails Programmes, stretches were realigned in 1988 and the track extended south to Walpole.

Progress, however, has recently been faltering. The man who is now working to put the new track firmly on the map is Jesse Brampton, director of the Bibbulmun project for Western Australia's Department of Conservation and Land Management (Calm).

A bush walker, who has conquered the mighty North American Appalachian Trail, he set out to walk the disused and overgrown Bibbulmun Track in the late Eighties. It left him with a sense of disappointment. "When people go bush walking, they don't want to walk into logging or mining operations; they want to walk in the bush, experience different kinds of terrain and have a sense of adventure."

A chance meeting with Calm gave him the opportunity to do something about it.

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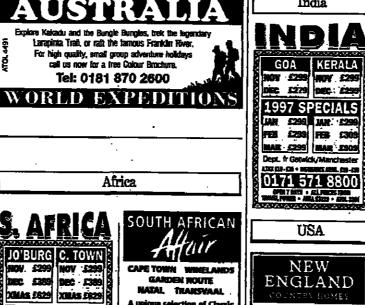
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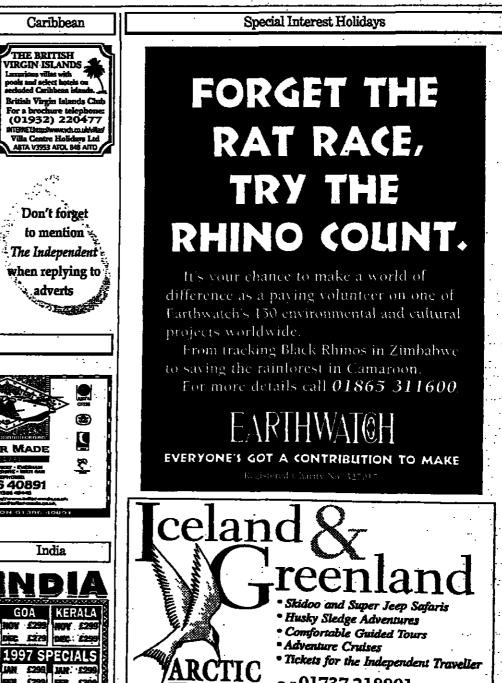
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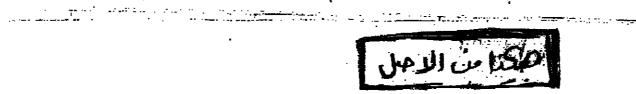








For further Special Interest Holidays please see page 14.



The riddle of Percy Island

Andrew Thorman goes in search of some family answers

hat a bastard. He just said goodbye, handed me a fiver and disappeared. He was my stepfather. I was 12 years old. Thirty five years later, there I was in Australia on the trail of the man who walked out on my mother, me, and my two younger brothers.

In 1961 we were all living on a farm in north Devon. Today Andrew Martin, Old Etonian, former Olympic athlete and runaway husband and father, lives on Percy Island, seven square miles of tropical paradise on the Great Barrier

Percy Island lies some 70 miles off Mackay, one of three islands that make up the Northumberland Group, "discovered" in the early 18th century by Captain Cook. Not that he ever visited the islands - he sort of sailed by, and named them after the Duke of Northumberland.

But many others have visited the islands, including escaped convicts, murderers, treasure hunters and runaway dads,

Reaching the islands is an adventure in itself. There are no cruise boats, no airport and no guide book. Which is, of course, why the Percys are still unspoilt. Many have wanted to cash in on their tourist potential - miles of sand, coral, safe swimming, rainforest, and rare plant life. However, they are under the protection of the national parks and you require a permit to visit.

I arrived there after a seven-hour journey in a 60ft ketch, a former pearling lugger. The Ruby Charlotte picked me up from a dot on the map called Carmilla Creek, 120 miles south of Mackay, a mangrove-infested lagoon of milky blue water which appeared to be deserted but for discarded "tinnies" scattered about the foreshore. A large sign warned of the dangers of box jellyfish.

Life on board was tranquillity itself at first. As I sat under a balmy sky in a wicker chair tied to the deck, drinking home-made mead (brewed on Percy from the island's honey), it all seemed a far cry from winter back home.

Five hours into the trip I was clutching a life-jacket, throwing up and praying for salvation as the boat pitched and rolled in 20ft seas full of sharks. Well, that's the way I it seemed to me.

I opened my eyes to see a stunning beach fringed with palm trees. The boat freshen up - when there's water. When was cruising through calm, turquoise water towards a jetty and dry land.

Most visitors to the Great Barrier Reef head straight for the more easily accessible tourist destinations such as to Middle Percy. Magnetic, Green and Great Keppel



The Percy Islands, some 70 miles off Mackay, were "discovered" by Captain Cook in the 18th century

hundreds of less well known but equally spectacular gems, such as the Percys.

There are three islands in the Northumberland group. Two are deserted. Andrew Martin lives on Middle Percy. We anchored in a cyclonethat cruise these islands.

earns a meagre living by selling homeoccasional other visitor, like me, to I was there it hadn't rained for months and the water tank was dry. The heach was deserted but for a lone bull, one of a small herd of Indian cattle introduced

Islands, ignoring the chance to visit the island, in the early 19th century, had rather more to contend with. Four white botanists were eaten by the then resident

Next came three gold-diggers, attracted by the huge veins of quartz visible in the cliffs. One was murdered, one proof lagoon, one of the few safe committed suicide, the other simply anchorages for the thousands of boats vanished. Then the bodies of several escaped convicts were found washed up On the beach was a huge A-frame on the beach, after the yacht they'd building providing overnight comfort for stolen from the Bishop of Tasmania was a 6ft-long brown tree snake making its away) where there is an airstrip. As we yachties, from where Andrew Martin wrecked on the approach. Then there was a character called Jimmy Joss, who grown produce such as mango chutney, hid a thousand gold sovereigns and

After Jimmy came ex-Indian Army veteran Colonel Armitage, who grew coffee, and, in 1922, the White family. who remained on the island until where I retreated. Andrew Martin bought the lease in 1963 for the equivalent of £5,000.

strewn track that gives you a feeling of being in a liquidiser - snakes its way through forest and creek to a large clearing in the middle of the island. The house - a traditional Queenslander built on wooden stilts - looks the picture of luxury. It isn't.

David Attenborough could have made an entire TV series, just by focusing on my room. The dim light from the way to bed - my bed.

I put my head on the pillow, only to hear a scratching sound. Using a torch honey, beer and fresh fruit. A rudi-mentary shower allows sailors and the never been found.

I looked under the bed. Hanging from the springs were - and I counted them 15 bats.

I reckoned there was more wildlife inside the house than outside, and that's

The next day, after a breakfast of us?" or the equivalent of £5,000. goats' cheese, goats' butter and goats' milk. I headed for the sea and a blissful The first people to set foot on the jetty to the house. The road - a rock-hour swimming among angel fish.

PHOTOGRAPH: TONY STONE

The island is stocked with sheep, cattle, kangaroos, emu (just one) - and goats. These are regularly shot to provide meat for the residents and their dogs. I never want to see a goat again.

There were lots of snakes - but Andrew said they were harmless. I reckon that nothing in Australia is

After two days I hitched a ride on a took off I reflected on my greeting from

broom which he used as a crutch.

hand. "I'm glad to see you." "So." I asked him "Why did you leave

"Ah, that's a difficult story ... how's your mother?'

the King of Percy – his phrase not mine. Andrew had stood there, in a pair of mauve Speedos and a filthy cotton Tshirt. He was supported by an upturned

"Hi," he beamed. He shook me by the

The bastard.



t is not unprecedented for Nations force in Lebanon.

compliment and refer to your publication, and this will be read by more than 600 Norwegian soldiers serving in Lebanon - and their friends and relatives."

around the world relying on guidebooks raises some intriguing possibilities. A copy of said Lebanon guide is on offer to the reader who suggests the least

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"I am in need of a good map to attract visitors to the UK. which was announced at the World Travel Market this week. However, some of the cogs in Britain's tourism infrastructure are not helping a smooth introduction of the initiative. For example, a protest meeting has Thames about the prospect of Network, intended to pass

The British Tourist Authority is have been made following so to be commended for promot- many adverse comments about ing cycling in its new campaign the company's policy.

awkward situations where we haven't really got the capacity". Other train operators are busily making improvements in a bid to entice more cyclists on to trains, however ScotRail remains defiant.

The first day of closure of the could offer them all manner of southern section of London's rides, but none of these could But is there an even less plau-Bakerloo line, mentioned last enable them to the Elephant & sible one?

"Nothing has changed," I was week, was not a huge success. Informed. "This is one of those Passengers who found their trips Plenty curtailed at Piccadilly Circus tried to follow a smattering of signs to the Bakerloo bus that is supposed to replace the Tube.

They all ended up at the Emaginator exhibit in the Trocadero Centre, a virtual reality attraction. The puzzled staff

Plenty of countries have consulates in London and Liverpool, but the Dominican Republic stands out on the diplomatic list for having a mission in Grimsby. Previously I had thought that the honorary Belgian consul in Penicuik, in the Scottish Borders, had the strangest diplomatic posting.

Australia survival guide



How to get there

In the past 10 years, air fares to Australasia have fallen by about half. For the lowest prices to Australia in the next four weeks, call Austravel (0171-734 7755) and Airtours (01706 260000) and ask about late-availability fares on their charters. Return fares as low as £424 (including tax) are available on a few departures to a variety of points in

Among scheduled carriers, fares on quality airlines are hovering around the £700-£900 band for departures before or after the mid-December to early January peak. (Over Christmas, a few seats are being released by airlines and agents, but you can expect to pay well over £1,000 for the privilege.)

The real price battles begin in March

and last until the end of June -Australia's autumn and early winter, but not at all a bad time to visit Queensland or Western Australia. It should not be too difficult to find a return ticket for around £600 including tax, or £100 more if you get a couple of internal flights

British passport holders need a visitor visa for Australia. You can get one from several travel agents that specialise in the destination, but you pay a fee of around £15. Visas issued by the Australian High Commission in London, or the Consulate in Manchester, are free. Call 0891 600333 for more information.

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How to get around

Ansett and Qantas, the two leading domestic airlines in Australia, both operate airpass schemes. The basic idea is about the same for both: providing you take a minimum of two flights within the country, you pay £80 for each sector (with an extra £25 for particularly long flights to the Northern Territory and Western Australia).

A range of bus passes is available on Greyhound Pioneer, culminating in a year of unlimited travel around Australia for A\$1,350. Rail passes, both regional and national, can be obtained from Long Haul Leisurail, PO Box 113, Peterborough PE3 8HY (01733 335599).

How to get out

The Australian departure tax of A\$25 (about £13) is now included in the price of your air ticket, as is UK Air Passenger Duty of £10. Other local taxes, such as Sydney's noise tax (£2) and the airport levy in Cairns (£3.50). are also included.

Free information

Australian Tourist Commission, Gemini House, 10-18 Putney Hill, London SW15 (0181-780 2227). -

Go Australia is a free guide booklet with a reasonable ratio of editorial to advertising. Send a large self-addressed envelope with two first-class stamps to Go Publishing, 64 Chiswick High Road, London W4 ISY.



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guidebooks to be used by the military - for example Bomber Command in World War Two used Baedeker guides to try to avoid destroying too much of Germany's cultural wealth (although this failed tragically in the case of Dresden). Should you find yourself in Lebanon. don't be surprised if a soldier asks to borrow your guidebook. Vacation Work Publications of Oxford depend upon. has just received a fax from Captain Gunnar Grut at the headquarters of UNIFIL, the United

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describing the rest of Lebanon. Our soldiers have started travelling more extensively inside free Lebanon. Our unit-maps are limited to the area of operation. which of course is in the south.

"So I am appealing to you: map on page 15 in Travellers Survival Kit: Lebanon by Carole Cadwalladr and Anna Sutton?"

Captain Grut pointed out that there was something in it for the publisher: "I would of course

The publisher said yes. The

would you permit me to use the been held in Henley-onthe town being "swamped" with cyclists once the National Cycle through the town, is established. Anyone who has ever tried to drive a car through Henley might suggest that bicycles are not actually the prob-

lem here. Further north, ScotRail is continuing its vendetta against prospects of armed forces cyclists. There has been pressure in these pages and else-where to ease the policy that allows just one bicycle to travel on some trains in Scotland. So after the BTA's announcement suitable book for an army to at the World Travel Market, I went along to the ScotRail stand to ask what improvements

The Dragon's Crown When you have viewed the

through a world of gardens, canals, and water-borne villages to the Venice of the East - Suzhou - where splendours of the Great Wall and the Forbidden City and the savoured the delights of the Guilin and Hong philosophers and mandarins retired. Plus the splendours of the Forbidden City, the Terracotta Army. Kong, retire to the timeless peace of Anhul. Far off the beaten track among the clouds of the the sights of Shanghai and Hong Kong and a cruise through the magical mountains of Guilin. Yellow Mountain and the lanes of ancient villages. Select departures on 13 Apr., 26 Aug., 7 Sep., 5 Oct 1997 13 Apr., 20 Aug., 7 Sep., 5 Oct 1997 Prices from £1759 A taste of the Orient as It's meant to be sai trues of China, talk to the experts. China Travel Service (UK) Ltd CTS House, 7 Upper St Martins Lime, London WC

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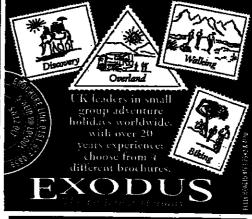




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All colours of piste in the Lebanon

Stephen Wood checks out unlikely ski resorts at the World Travel Market

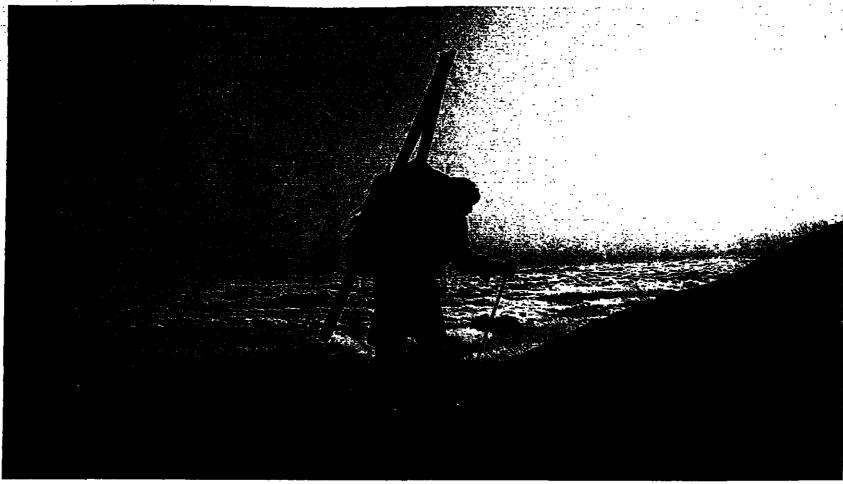
nce a year, the travel business gets the chance to share the experience of the ordinary holidaymaker. That isn't actually the purpose of the World Travel Market, which exists to enable tour-bus companies, hotel chains and national tourist boards to hawk their wares to tour operators, conference organisers, travel a gents and the like. It is just a happy accident that the event turns Earls Court into a reasonable facsimile of Gatwick Airport on a bank holiday weekend.

My agenda at this week's event was to research those parts of the skiing world that British skiers do not reach: countries with mountains, snow and ski-lifts, but no tour operator to sell them to us.

The first stop on my itinerary was Serbia. Its stand seemed rather bare, with just a few leaflets about hotels in Belgrade. I enquired about the possibility of skiing holidays: "Sure, you can ski in Serbia," said the woman folding leaflets, as if nothing could be easier. She didn't actually add "if you make all." add if you make all your own arrangements", but that became obvious when she showed me on a map how to get to the resorts from Belgrade, and explained the procedure for obtaining a visa.

My next stop, Russia, was suggested by Simon Calder, our travel editor. Ten years ago, he went on the first-ever cross-country skiing holiday there, offered in Britain by Intourist, the state-run travel agency. It laid on two guides, two drivers and a 50-seat coach, despite the fact that only four people had booked the holiday. Not much progress seems to have been made since then. On the stand of the State Committee of the Russian Federation for Physical Culture and Tourism, Eugueni Gorki, admitted that Russian skiers prefer to go to Slovakia or Austria: not more than 20,000 a year ski in their own country. "The new minister for tourism was a professional skier." he said, "so perhaps he'll do something to develop skiing holidays."

Next, I tried a few long shotd. My question about the country's skiing went down so well with the Portuguese that I tried it on a Canary Islander, who obviously thought it was the funniest thing he'd heard all day. Naturally, I ended up at The Netherlands, where one of the stand's staff entered into the spirit of the thing by recommending its dry ski-slopes.



On the slopes of Mount Fuji. However, Japanese resorts are considered too expensive to be a serious option for British skiers

My serious quest continued at Bolivia, a country which has no reason to apologise for the skiing: its Chacaltaya resort, three hours' drive from La Paz, is the highest in the world at 5300 metres. It turned out that skiing is not very well-developed in Bolivia. The woman on the stand pointed out that Chacaltaya is its only resort, and although Europeans do ski there, they are mainly Germans. I could, however, get a brochure if I sent a fax to La Paz.

Nobody could say that Japan's skiing is not developed: the country has some 700 resorts. But it is too far away, too alien and thought to be too expensive to attract Eng-nide from the capital, and with rich Turks

man said that it was talking to tour operators about two-centre packages, combining city tourism with skiing - which seems a good idea, because the skiing market is so domestic-based that the resorts are, apparently, hellish at weekends but empty during the week.

The two countries in which I was really interested were Turkey and the Lebanon. Both have longish traditions of skiing and have traditionally been ignored by British skiers. Turkey's first resorts were close to Istanbul: the best-known, Uludag, is a ferry

lish skiers. The tourist board's London PR paying up to £100 a night for its hotels it was priced out of the package-tour market.

Now skiing has spread out to the east, created a new resort at Palandoken, near Erzurum, 200km from the Armenian border. On the Turkey stand, Dedeman's Mustafa Turkmen ran me through the attractions: 2400m resort, 644 beds, 30km of pistes, four new chair-lifts. Already, 45 per cent of the skiers are foreign - a bizarre mix of Russians, Dutch and Maltese, in almost equal parts - and Dedeman is now hoping to do deals with English operators, too.

One of southern Turkey's small resorts, Saklikent, is close enough to the sea to allow skiing in the morning and swimming and a Turkish developer. Dedeman, has in the Mediterranean in the afternoon -

my idea of heaven. The string of six resorts near Beirut offers the same promise. The Lebanon stand gave me their excellent 34-page skiing guide - and a lovely idea. A cheap-ish flight to Beirut: skiing at The Cedars and Faraya (lifts to 2463m, all colours of piste); the sea only half-an-hour away; Lebanese food... just the thought of it was worth a day in the scrum of the World Travel Market.

Road to Mandalay?

By Sue Wheat

onday is the start of Visit Myanmar Year, Myanmar being the official name given to Burma by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), the ruling military junta. Although they wanted to encourage tourists to visit earlier, lack of facilities meant delaying until now. Better late than never. Or is it?

The Nobel Peace Prize Winner and Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kvi has asked tourists not to support Visit Myanmar Year. She cites human rights abuses connected to tourism development. But many people in the industry say that tourism does a country good. In a recent Tourism Concern survey about taking tours to Burma, the most frequent argument was that human rights abuses happen everywhere, so why highlight Burma?

Burma is exceptional with regard to tourism. Not only is it run by a military regime "guilty of extrajudicial killing, torture, forced unpaid labour on construction projects and forced relocation of villages", according to Amnesty International, but many of these abuses have occurred in order to develop the country for the 250,000 tourists the SLORC hopes to attract.

Such facts have prompted four British tour operators not to go to Burma. However, big operators, such as Kuoni and Orient Express, insist that it is up to individuals to decide whether they want to go or not. Yet even the most well-meaning tourists trying to put their money into local hands still fund the junta. Take sightseeing. It costs around \$60 to visit all the official sites in Rangoon. Multiply that by 250,000 visitors, and that's \$15m. And it's worth bearing in mind that SLORC spends about 41 per cent of its budget on arms.

As Suu Kyi has pointed out, "There are times when breadth of vision dictates that travel be curbed in the interest of justice and humanity."

The Burma Action Group is organising a 'Don't Visit Burma Yet' evening on 19 November, to include a screening of John Pilger's interview with Aung San Suu Kyi. Call 0171-359 7679.

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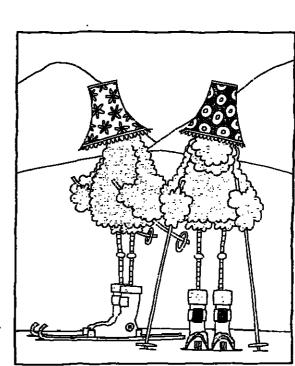
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THOMSON

Daniel Butler on the est garden snacks

s the first serious frosts slice through the borders and whip the last of the leaves from the horse restnuts, it's time to spare a thought or non-migratory birds that will ontinue to visit the garden. "Hard cather can be a real killer, particularly or smaller species like wrens, tits and bins," says Chris Harbard, a ookesman for the RSPB. "Snow makes difficult for them to find food, while ing nights and low temperatures mean nergy reserves can drop dangerously." Millions of birds survive each winter nanks to bird tables, which also bring wards for humans, by increasing the ange of visitors and making them such easier to observe. Indeed, when copie first start putting out bird food. ney are often surprised at the range of irds they find are sharing their garden. In spite of this, there is confusion bout when, where and what to provide. ndeed, until recently the RSPB advised

nly winter feeding.

We used to think there should be lenty of wild food during summer, hich, by definition, is more 'natural' nd therefore better," explains Mr larbard. In fact, research now suggests hat feeding all year can be a real help. articularly in urban gardens with few nature trees. This means a narrower ange of food, and reduced breeding uccess for many species.

A bird table allows parents to feed hemselves quickly, freeing them to find natural food for their young particularly in bad weather. As a recaution, however, the RSPB advises gainst hard, fatty foods, "Parents ometimes choke their young with umps that are too big for them to wallow," Mr Harbard says.

There are few such worries in winter, vhen virtually anything will do. In general, the more varied the spread, the nore visitors. Seed attracts finches; tits ike peanuts: and thrushes appreciate ruit such as apples cut in half. Another option is a "bird cake" made by melting me part lard with two parts of seed. nuts, dried fruit, breadcrumbs or citchen scraps. The gooey mass is left to et and is then hung up outside.

Scraps are also welcome, particularly hose with a high fat content, such as grated cheese rind or chicken carcasses. But salted peanuts should be avoided at ill costs. Mr Harbard adds that though ears have recently been expressed about the saltiness of bacon rinds, there s no evidence that they cause problems. And the birds love them, "If ou're worried, you can always soak

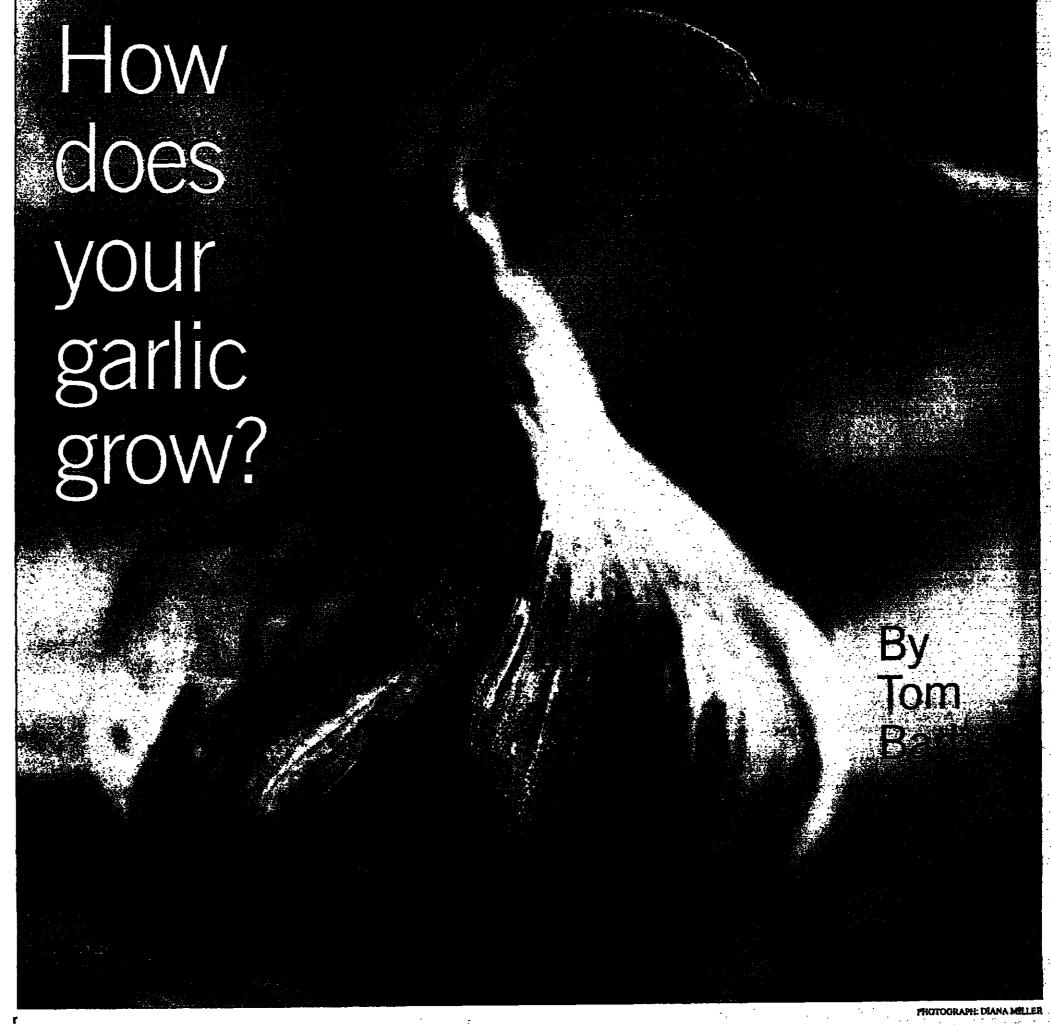
hem first in water." he says. Water should, in any case, always be wailable, particularly when natural applies are likely to be frozen solid.

Any good party, however, attracts gatecrashers. Squirrels can be deterred with a proprietary feeder, or by threading a wire through two plastic pottles and suspending feeders in between. Most cats are put off by a tall hird table with a good overhang, while keeping the ground clear beneath it reduces the risk of rat invasion.

Sparrowhawks are more difficult. Not only are they protected; they are attracted to the bird table by the regular diners - for "peanuts" read "blue tits". Most bird watchers appreciate their speed and agility, but for the squeamish, silver foil threaded on cotton may act as a partial deterrent.

The feeding station should be placed where you can see it. After all, you're putting out all the food," says Mr Harbard, "Make the most of it,"

Feeding Garden Birds', is available free from the RSPB - which also sells feeders and bird tables. Send an sae to RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL,



who find garlic repulsive are really vampires and fiends. Since I've never hung around with the likes of Vincent Price, my appreciation of garlic has largely been confined to the kitchen, where I revere it is one of life's great gastronomic pleasures. It also endears itself to the

gardener in me, by being a complete doddle to grow. With such qualities, it is not surpris-ing that garlic is a highly prized, ubiq-uitous commodity, with a history of cultivation that predates written records. As with other long-domesticated plants,

garlic's wild origins are uncertain, but were probably the rocky steppes of central Asia. There are carvings of garlic dating back to 3750BC, and one of the less celebrated finds within the extraordinary 3.500-year-old tomb of Tutankhamun were six dried, but perfectly preserved, garlic cloves, presumably included so that the poor chap could continue to enjoy his meals in the

> Garlie is an essential constituent of nearly all the world's great cuisines, but it has been even more valued for its therapeutic properties.

The Egyptians doled it out for heart problems, intestinal worms, headaches

as an antiseptic, and the Unit brewed up garlic tea to treat such nasties as cholera and dysentery. In Europe it was used as protection against bubonic plague (the mortality statistics must cast doubt on its effectiveness here) and more recently, during both world wars, as a wound disinfectant. To this day it remains a popular "herbal" remedy for an amazingly diverse array of complaints.

When it comes to hard medical fact, scientific research has led even such august publications as the British Medical Journal to concede that some garlic preparations (the less processed, the better) have a beneficial effect on certain pathological processes. Most significant is its influence on cardiovascular disease by reducing blood cholesterol, lowering blood pressure and discouraging inappropriate clot formation. There is evidence, too, that garlic has widespread antibacterial and antifungal properties and affords limited protection against some cancers.

All this might be enough to persuade you to consume quantities of garlic even f it tasted foul, but, of course, it doesn't. As an unrepentant garlicophile, I am driven to despair by timid English

erhaps those baffling people and tumours; in India it was employed recipes that never prescribe more than prone to all the ugly diseases of their mancy types, which include most availon principle and have not yet encountered garlic overkill. However, studies of our shopping habits are beginning to suggest that the ultra-cautious British palate is at last waking up to the overwhelming wonderfulness of this bulb.

Garlic is commonly associated with Mediterranean cultures (though more is eaten per head in the Far East) and it is this, perhaps, that has created the fallacy that garlic does not grow well in our cooler climate. It is in reality bone hardy, prolific and unfussy and, unlike some aromatic herbs, it will develop as fine a flavour here as anywhere.

Garlic is traditionally planted on the longest day of the year and harvested on the shortest. Other sources recommend spring planting. Both should be ignored. Plant instead from late October to late November as garlic benefits from a long growing season, and many varieties require several weeks of cold to develop properly. On heavy, poorly drained soils it may be wise to set the cloves initially into pots, and delay the final planting out until early the following

Simply take a garlic bulb and break it into separate cloves. Plant these 15cm apart each way in a sunny spot. They are much beyond November. Long dor- Gloucestershire (01453 750377).

eelworm, so it is a wise precaution to include them in a rotation of crops. The usual advice is to set each clove around 5cm deep but I have reaped heavier harvests by planting them up to twice this depth, so you may wish to experiment. This may sound insulting, but do be sure to plant them the right way up - pointed tip upwards, flat root-plate downwards.

Apart from the odd hit of weeding, that's about all you need to worry about. The following summer the leaves will begin to yellow, at which point the garlics are ready for lifting. Delay until the foliage has died right down, and there is a risk that the cloves will begin to sprout again. Be careful not to bash them about, as they bruise easily at this stage and will then rot in store.

Put the harvested garlic somewhere warm and dry (indoors, if necessary) for a week or so, until the outer skins are dry and papery. If you're in the mood you can then plait them into a garlic rope, but hanging them up in loose bunches in a cool, airy place is perfectly

Varieties differ considerably in how long they will store. Some have only a short dormant period and will not keep

ding white rot and able in this country, should see you right the way through to the following year's harvest, making self-sufficiency in garlic a real possibility.

The garlic grown in different parts of the world differs in other significant characteristics as well, but the reality at present is that little choice is available.

Most commercially produced British garlic is grown on the Isle of Wight and this is the usual source of the garlic sold through seed catalogues and garden centres, some with a specific name, but more often not. This at least means that it has a record of performing well under British conditions.

Having said that, I have had my best crops from a much larger Continental variety called 'Cristo'. In the past I have had perfectly acceptable results from garlic bought from the supermarket. However, there is a risk that an imported variety will not grow well under British conditions. More significantly, there is no way of guaranteeing that it is free of serious virus or nematode infestation that will wreak havoc.

Garlic 'Cristo' and other Continental varieties are available from Jennifer Birch, Garfield Villa, Belle Vue Road, Stroud,



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Weekend work

ven in the best regulated gardens many flower beds are looking untidy now. On a dry day it is worth spending some time removing dead annuals and spent stems of herbaceous plants. The early spring bulbs will look so much prettier emerging from a neat bed than from a tangle of dead leaves. If left, the decaying plants will also provide shelter for slugs and snails, which will emerge in spring to take the tops off plants. Try to tread as little as possible on the flower beds when the weather is wet, so the soil does not become compacted. Many lawns are now covered in worm

casts, which will squidge flat into nastylooking mud patches if stepped on. These muddy areas make it harder for the finer grasses to thrive, so the lawn will ultimately become coarser. At the end of a windy or sunny day, the casts should be dry enough to sweep off.

Spend some time sorting out the garden's support systems. Make sure trellising, stakes, wall hooks and wires are secured and the plants well fastened to them. Generally, trellises and poles need to be twice as strong as you might think - climbers, especially robust twiners such as wistena, grow quickly from spindly twigs to heavy branches.

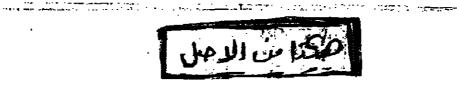
For a bit of winter colour, think about window boxes and tubs. Winterflowering pansies and polyanthus are obvious choices, but also consider the tiny shrubs that can be bought for £2 or less. 6in- or 8in-high variegated hollies and euonymus, or skimmias with big trusses of buds, will all provide interest for the whole winter, and they can be thrown away in spring without too much of a qualm if there is no room for them elsewhere. All these, and heathers, will stay looking good in darker areas. Pansies and polyanthus will need a lit-tle more light to look at their best, Paler. warmer colours stand out much better in the darker days of winter, so a tub of lemon pansies will be far more eyecatching than blue. If the tub is big enough, a centrepiece of a bright orange striped phormium would complement the pansies. The orange-berried winter cherry, or solanum, will survive on a warm window sill, although it can be irresistible to blackbirds - and if it loses its berries it loses its point.

Apples and pears can be pruned now. If a tree has been left unpruned for several years, concentrate on removing one or maybe several branches entirely. rather than trying to take something off

every branch. The middle of the tree should be opened up to allow light and air in, and any large wounds should be treated with a disease preventative. Thin, whippy branchlets which have the smaller, non-flowering buds on them.

should be reduced by a third to a half. If the garden lacks interest at this time of year, watch out for trees and shrubs that are coming into flower in other gardens, to work out what to buy: Autumn cherries begin to flower soon as their leaves drop, and may stay in flower throughout the winter. Some species of mahonia are in flower already, although the heavenly-scented cultivar "Charity" will not flower for another month. For scent, there is already blossom on some viburnums, notably V farreri. The winter-flowering irises, I unguiculuris and I lazica, are also worth considering. They will be coming into flower very soon, and a couple of bulbs planted in a dry, sunny spot will produce 30 or 40 winter blooms in a couple of years. If you have a Christmas rose showing buds just through the ground, a glass bell cloche may bringthem into flower for Christmas day.

Anna McKane



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Scots get the Scone, but Major wants the jam

The Stone of Destiny is handed back to Scotland 700 years after it was taken

The ancient Stone of Destiny was returned to Scotland yesterday amid a mixture of optimistic nationalism, the skirl of bagpipes and the whine of hard-nosed Celtic sceptics.

After 700 years, the coronation stone crossed the River Tweed on its way home, a return engineered by Michael Forsyth. the Secretary of State for Scotland, and John Major, the Prime Minister, in what was seen as either a grand gesture of reconciliation or a pre-elec-

At 11am - one hour late because of a bomb scare - the stone, taken from the Scots in 1296 by a triumphant Edward I. stopped in an Army Land Rover at the centre of the Coldstream bridge which divides Scotland and England. There it was passed from No 7 Compa-

ny the Coldstream Guards to an

escort from the 1st Battalion the

Kings Own Scottish Borderers, who edged it gingerly into Scot-

It was a moving moment wit-nessed by around 500 flag-wav-ing patriots and schoolchildren. The Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion the Argyll and Suther-land Highlanders and the Lowland Band of the Scottish Division struck up "The Return of the Stone", a piece of music written for the occasion by Capt Gavin Stoddart, director of Army bagpipe music at Edinburgh Castle.

For many, it was a moment of intense pride. Edward I took the stone - also known as the Stone of Scone - to further demoralise the Scots after he had crushed them. It had served as the seat on which all Scottish kings had been crowned since 839. According to myth, it had been used by Jacob as his pil-low while in Bethel and had found its way to Scotland via

> sented the start of a new era. The return, however, has not ased everyone. The sense of loss at Westminster Abbey from where the stone was taken and to where it will return for future coronations - is palpable.

tithesis of that demoralisation. "It's a wonderful thing for us," said Eleanor Moffat, own-

er of the nearest Scottish

chairman of the Coldstream

Historical Society, was equally

700 years, something precious

of war is being given back." he said. "That will make all true

benches, George Robertson,

welcomed the return of the

stone – although each was care-

ful not to rouse Scots passions

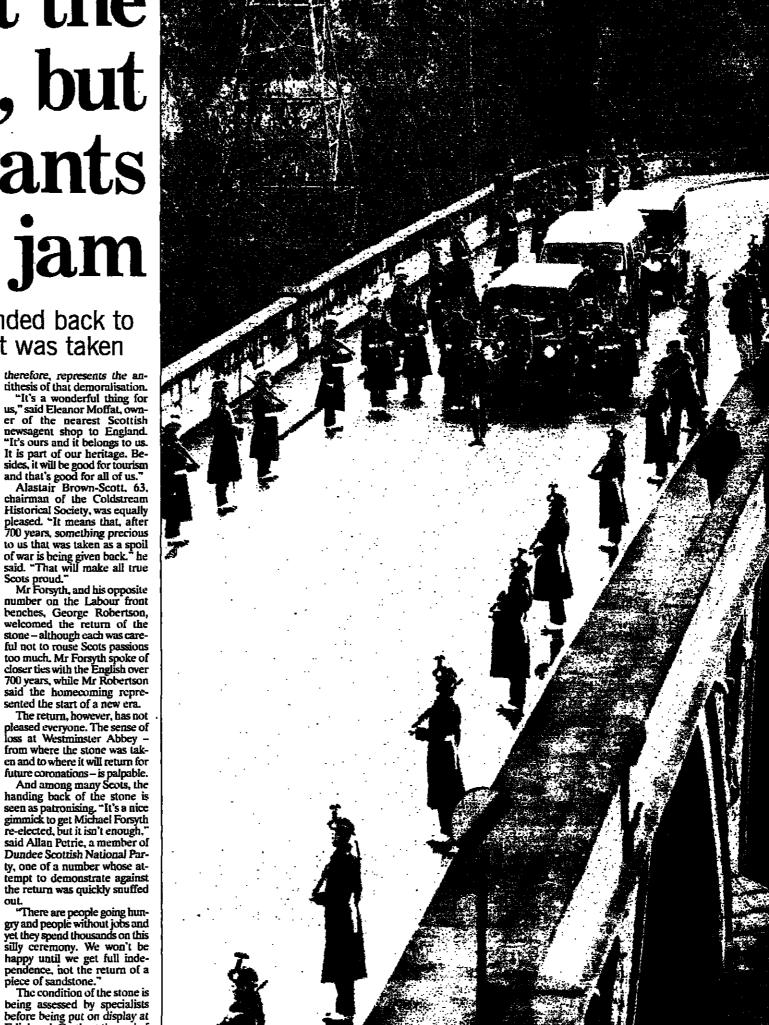
700 years, while Mr Robertson

said the homecoming repre-

And among many Scots, the handing back of the stone is seen as patronising. "It's a nice gimmick to get Michael Forsyth re-elected, but it isn't enough. said Allan Petrie, a member of Dundee Scottish National Party, one of a number whose attempt to demonstrate against the return was quickly snuffed

"There are people going hun-gry and people without jobs and yet they spend thousands on this silly ceremony. We won't be happy until we get full independence, not the return of a piece of sandstone. The condition of the stone is

being assessed by specialists Edinburgh Castle at the end of the month. And more than one canny Scot was quick to point out vesterday that the fee to view the stone will be £5.50. While on show in England, it



Taking the high road: the stone arrives at the Coldstream bridge on the border between Scotland and England to be handed over to the Kings Own Scottish Borderers

Julian Barnes's story on the art of making money

David Lister Art News Editor

The text is by Julian Barnes. The pictures are by the celebrated British colourist Howard Hodgkin. It is only a short story, and the book is not much bigger than a compact disc. But it will set you back £750 for the basic version, and £1,500 for the full-blown, leather-bound version. each one on hand-painted blue paper.

Artists books - books with a painter creating individual prints for each copy - are, not surprisingly, a rarity. Samuel Beckett collaborated with Jasper Johns and more than 20 years ago David Hockney did one of the Grimms' Fairy Tales. but there have been few since.

The man who wants to revitalise the genre and is behind the Barnes/Hodgkin venture, is 46-year-old Simon Draper. In the Seventies he co-founded Virgin Records with Richard Branson. It was he, not Branson, who discovered Mike Oldfield and his Tubular Bells which gave the label its place in music history.

Bored with the music industry, Mr Draper left Virgin in 1992 and set up Palawan Press, which has so far dealt mainly in exclusive mail order. It has published a lavish guide to Fer-

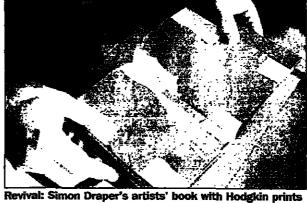
rari cars (£1,000 a copy) and an equallavish guide to Aston Martins (£750). Mr Draper had known Julian Barnes through a shared enthusiasm for wine. They met at a tasting. Both also knew

the former Turner Prize winner Howard Hodgkin, who was eager to see Mr Draper's Sussex mansion, designed by Lutyens. Over dinner they formulated the idea of a collaboration between Barnes and Hodgkin. The book consists of Barnes' short story. Evermore - about an Englishwoman's obsessive visits to her brother's First World War grave - already in his recent collection, Cross Channel.

Hodgkin then spent six months inings differing slightly from volume to vol-ume. Fifty numbered, £1,500 editions eneased in a silver book-cloth portfolio box also contain two Hodgkin prints.

Mr Draper, an art collector, says that even seen just as an investment these books should more than pay for themselves in years to come. But he is uncomfortable at the thought of them being viewed merely as investments.

'Making money hasn't been the printerspersing his vibrant hand-coloured prints. Each volume is unique, with the shades and density of Hodgkin's colourput it on the wall. It's more accessible. But a book you have to get out. Enjoying it is a more considered activity. This is in some ways an idealistic venture."



£17m fund for breast implant victims

lan Burrell

Hundreds of British women have won the right to sue for a share of a \$25m (£17m) fund set aside for victims of faulty sili-

Lawyers acting for three American companies which produced them agreed yester day that British women should be entitled to compensation. Some may now win tens of

thousands of pounds.
A court in Alabama last year ruled that only American women should be allowed to claim damages for injuries caused when the implants ruptured or led to silicone-related

Lawyers representing women in London, Nottingham and Sheffield appealed against the decision, along with others outside the US.

In what was described as a breakthrough for the British victims, lawyers representing the US companies, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Baxter and 3M, agreed that the foreign women had a right to compensation and said that a \$25m fund had been ringfenced to pay them.

Paul Balen, of Freeth, Cartwright, Hunt, Dickins, in Nottingham, said of the decision: "I suspect that it will affect thousands of British women but that only hundreds will qualify for compensation because they have to be able to prove the source of the implant

and the injury it caused."

Women will not be able to claim if their implants were provided by Dow-Corning, another American company which was the largest manufacturer of implants. It was the subject of

an earlier global action. So many claimants came forward to sue Dow-Corning that the company made it itself bankrupt rather than face the courts. Victims are still fighting for compensation. British women with a claim against it have until 14 February to claim.

A separate action was brought against the three oth-er companies. In an order to be made by the judge supervising the breast implant settlement. the three manufacturers have agreed to "settle the claims of all foreign claimants'

Only women who have already registered claims as part will be entitled to seek a share of the \$25m fund. An estimated 10,000 British women have

In the UK, 100,000 women have breasts which are not entirely their own. Of these, 60.000 chose to have the extra bits for cosmetic reasons while 40,000 had implants after operations for breast cancer.

Most implants are made of a silicone envelope with a liquid of gel-like silicone filling. Silicone was assumed to be inert until the late-Eighties when evidence emerged in America that it could "bleed" and provoke skin and joint inflammation and diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis.

In the past four years there have been 18 studies of possible links between silicone and certain diseases and none has found a connection. One of the biggest, at Harvard Medical School, ex-amined 87,500 nurses of whom 1,2000 had implants. It found no greater incidence of illness among women who had im-



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Great artist, nasty man? Andrew Marr reflects on Pablo Picasso6 Kenneth Baker's favourite war verse8

n September, Washington DC was gearing up for another inauguration.
And notwithstanding the minor distraction of the then upcoming presi-dential elections. Leonard Slatkin – the newly installed music director of the National Symphony Orchestra – was wasting no time in getting his message across. That's the way it is in DC. You send messages, people listen. They may not hear, but they listen. On Slatkin's opening night, they listened to Bernstein. Barber, Hanson. Baker and Ellington. That's 100 per cent home-grown produce. That's a message. By week three of the season, the tally of repertoire was 11 works, nine of them by Americans. Now that's not a mes-

sage, that's a manifesto.

So Mister Slatkin went to Washington and began talking like a politician: "Look. this country doesn't need another Brahms. Schumann. Mendelssohn. Bruckner. Mahler orchestra – we've got enough of them. Twenty-five years ago, this country's major orchestras weren't defined just by how well they played, but by the repertoire they played. Whatever happened to that identification of orchestras and conductors with specific repertoire? And that's part of what I want to do here. If you're going to call an orchestra the National Symphony, it has to reflect the national character. Which is a lot of things, clearly. And even though I did just that in Saint Louis, it seems that people take this concept in a much more serious way here in Washington. It's a very political town in more ways than one. If you say something at a party or reception, the next day everyone knows about it. Actually, that's an upside of being here: you get to know things before they happen...

For National Symphony subscribers, prior notice of change was a sealed glossy pamphlet inscribed with the words "The Slatkin Era Unfolds". But change is about more than programming innovations, however dramatic and far-reaching they may be. Slatkin is committed to a total makeover of the orchestra and its environment. And it may yet prove advantageous that of all the orchestras he has worked with "back home", the NSO is the one he knows least well. Building character and attitude in an orchestra, shaping personnel without too much blood-letting is a long process that is best started from scratch. Then again, how do you cultivate the sound of an orchestra, or gauge your progress, when the hall you perform in conveys such a distorted F Kennedy Center's main concert hall is looking awful and sounding worse - that's members of the chorus who have lost Slatkin's view. He has pressed all along for a total refit, cosmetic and acoustical. And he's succeeded. It happens next year.

Between 11 and 13 October of this year, though, at a time when Washington's main thoroughtare (the mail extending from the Washington Monument to the as to where Slatkin chooses to nail his "pri-Lincoln Memorial and beyond) normally begins disappearing under the seasonal carpet of leaves, a quilt now comprising ican cities as part of his first national tour

Innocent as charged Yes, it's true. Leonard Slatkin, the new boss of Washington's National Symphony Orchestra, really does prefer American music - and he's about to give us the benefit of his experience. By Edward Seckerson Photo by Edward Sykes

where the eyes of the world would see it. It was this project - "The Names Project" that moved the American composer John Corigliano to pen one of the most widely performed contemporary works of recent times: his Symphony No 1. A choral offshoot of that work - Of Rage and Remembrance (a reshaping of the symphony's third movement, "Giulio's Song") - serves as a moving preface to the symphony itself image of it. Twenty-five years on, the John on Slatkin's first RCA recording with his new orchestra. The final pages, where friends remember them, chanting their names, is a devastating revision of John Cage's "chance" technique: the names change with each performance.

Neither the choice of repertoire nor the ilming of this release leave one in any doubt mary colours". Next year he takes the Corigliano Symphony to 10 major Amer- Arthur Foote complete the roster.

reason for it. Another of his upcoming projects (one that follows on from this summer's Proms appearance, when he brought Harlem to Kensington) is a disc devoted to the music of Duke Ellington - "an African American composer from Washington DC". You reach out into a community via the repertoire you choose to play, he says.

And when you leave home to venture broad, you take a little of home with you. If the promoters will let you. The repertoire list for next year's international tour contains only two European works: Sibelius's Second Symphony and the Beethoven "Emperor" Concerto. For the rest, it's William Schuman's Fifth Symphony, Walter Piston's Second, Copland's Third, the William Bolcom Piano Concerto, and a new Percussion Concerto (for Evelyn Glennie) by Joseph Schwantner. Smaller pieces by Ives, Gershwin and

But Slatkin is wagering now that prosome 45,000 panels – a mere handful of the lives lost to Aids – was once more laid out who'll question that choice, but all the more be pressing for an Ives/Beethoven/

Sibelius package, "If I had my druthers," he says, "I'd go with Ives/Schwantner! Copland 3 for London." So if that's not what we get, you'll know why. Incidentally; if I had my "druthers", Slatkin would be principal conductor (not just, as is soon to be confirmed, principal guest conduc-tor) of our own Philharmonia. Here's a man who's not afraid to say he'd rather conduct first-rate American pieces than second-rate European ones. I feel much the same about conductors.

Anyway, back to touring, "Look, it, works the other way around, too. When your orchestras come to the US, we don't hear them play British music because our promoters don't want it! And yet the Berlin Philharmonic can play Brahms wherever they go... Ask yourself why it is that the Proms are so adventurous and successful? It's not just the prices, is it? It's trust." One hundred years' worth. And subsidy.

own. Tomorrow Slatkin presides over a major UK premiere that only the BBC-

in the present climate + could have made in the present climate - conset have made possible. William Bolcom's Sings of Juniocence and of Experience is the field picking of a lifelong fastination - Sings would say obsession - with the visioning with and platfoscophies of the life sings possibility possibility and platfoscophies of the life sings possibility and engravor. William Bulks. Bothers of the life sings com calls it "A Musical Illumination of the Poems of William Blake" and its creation

occupied him, at varying levels of intensity, over a period of some 26 years.
"Without Contraries is no progression." wrote Blake, and it's those "contraries" that dominate both the "songs" and their "settings" in this huge, all-embracing cantata. Just as Blake used his whole culture. past and present, high-flown and vernacpoetic styles, so too does Bolcom. The English madrigal sits cheek by jowl here with the American bar-room ballad, blues and Which is where the BBC comes into its soul, jazz and gospel rekindle their natural Radio 3. Slatkin's NSO recording of kinship, serialism rules without tyranny, the dissonant rubs shoulders with the sweetly

consonant. So a gloomy song about the poor and underprivileged finds expression in gritty contemporary rock - unforgiving electric guitar to the fore - while "The Shepherd" is carefree American bucolic, western-style. Itwn and country, inner-city frowns and Arcadian smiles, misery and mirth. Contrarios, conflicts and contradictions, different musics spilling into each other until finally a kind of universal harmony is culled from disharmony. A mad, glorious, inglorious, synthesis. A

universal song.

Bolcom knows a thing or two about song, songsters, songfulness. He and his wife Joan Morris (who has sung in all but one performance of innocence and Esperience and does so again tomorrow night) were prime movers in the ragtime revival of the Sixties, and together they have roured and recorded compendious programmes drawn from two centuries of American song. So nothing here is parodistic. The unforgettable, Shaker-like "In mercy, pity, peace, and love" ("The Divine Image") has been touched with Stephen Foster's kindly hand, a wrong note here and there tempering innocent harmonics with the pain of experience.

So there you have it: innocence and experience. The fundamentals of human nature. Blake recognised that. He was, in the words of Alfred Kazin, "a peculiarly disturbed and disturbing prophet of the condition of modern man". Says Bolcom. Blake tells us what we are and contrusts this with what we think we are... He realised that only when people face up to what they really are can they know joy. I think that joy, ultimately, is what my settings of Blake's poems are all about. I don't mean just happiness, I mean joy, the kind you find at the end of 'The Book of Ind's after the propert things that could poss Job': after the worst things that could possibly happen to him, Joh is left with joy because God finally tells him the truth about himself, That's it. In a nutshell. In truth there is joy."

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ing our fire own

Diament :

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Diete to the training

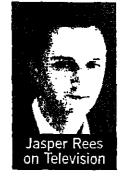
भागम् स्थापः

And it's there in Bolcom's final setting, "A Divine Image": "Creety has a human heart/And jeakousy a human face/ Terror, the human form divine"... "We should feel salamed of the indictment but with a twist of supreme irony - a Mahierian apothe-oss with a reggae beat - Bolcom makes in want to get up and dance. Last words to Statkin His championship

of Bolcom's work reached its own apotheosis at New York's Carnegie Hall in 1993 with a 25-minute ovation and a place on just about everybody's "best of year" lists. 'In our lifetime we've seen certain works - even works like Mahler Eight - move from being rare events to really quite regnlar occurrences. Make no mistake, this work restores to us the idea of the concert as 'an event', A happening. And it's ular - from classical verse to street-song not going to happen again in a very long

"Songs of Innocence and of Experience", 7pm tomorrow; RFH, SBC, London SEI (£11 unreserved: 0171-960 4242), and live on Corigliano's First Symphony is on RCA/ BMG 09026 68450-2

Oestrogen on the rampage



n the week it was decided that the Loin King would not be appearing on the nation's advertising heardings, Panorama (BBC). Mon) reported on the growing phenomenon of violent women. One wife, who spends two weeks out of every four as if demonically possessed by her own menstrual cycle, took it out on the furniture, "We got through three-piece suites like nobody's business," explained her besieged husband, who doubtless used the sofa as a defensive rampart. One woman scorned Bobbited her boyfriend with a Stanley knife: they showed you the photo of the reconstituted

member, just in case your mind's eye was unable to call up the relevant image of mutilation. Another avenger drizzled molten candle wax over her husband's middle regions. Again, to jump-start those with stalled imaginations, a reconstruction depicted the phallic candles succumbing

Apparently, if things carry on this way, women will be as brutal as men within 20 years. Sewing the penis back on will presumably replace circumcision as the op most frequently performed on British males. It's an equality of sorts, but it will take women far longer to achieve parity across the full range of sins. The adulterer with the molten groin admitted that his wife was seeking retribution for finding out about "some tramp I had been seeing". His wife would probably say he was waxing hypocritical.

Elsewhere, the contest hetween oestrogen and testosterone was hotting up. Both Video Diaries (BBC2, Sat) and Soho Stories (BBC2, Mon. Tues, Wed) found womankind in a state of unfettered lust as male

their assets. Note how both strippers mined Greek legend for their stage names (Zeus and Troy Passion. though sadly no Philoctetes), as if harping after a mythical time of clear-cut gender roles when men were men and women washed the amphorae.

Soho Stories deployed its

favourite tactic of cross-cutting around the district to weave its narrative. Hence Troy Passion whipped up female hysteria as football hooligans (and the odd booliganess) went ballistic outside in the street. Girls, went the heavily editorialised argument, are just as capable of mindless frenzy. This position was slightly complicated by the presence of Danny the transvestite singer, the series' lensoholic centre of attention. When he threatened to throw bricks through the BBC's window if they lit his face too harshly, it was unclear whether the X or Y chromosomes were

doing the talking. Sharman (ITV, Mon) tried to have it both ways. Our stubbled private dick has one main squeeze per episode and this week's, a

performers stripped down to whore in the bedroom, turned out to be an undercover cop in the bedroom. It's not a difficult look to pull off. One of the girl gang who mugged Elizabeth Hurley told Panorama she mistook her for a prostitute. (Would have saved Hugh a car ride if she were.) Sharman is an escapist bit of twaddle with the surreal twist that the escape route takes you to sarf London.

The dialogue, in unsubtitled Streathamese, is only slightly less cacophonous than the clattering backchat of handguns. In the last shot of the show the prostitute / policewoman stood legs astride in black PVCs and gunned down a drug baron, just as Panorama on the other side was delivering its findings about violent women. The charm of Crocodile

Shoes, about a Geordie pauper who became a rock star, lay in the naïveté of its hero, Jed Sheppard. Crocodile Shoes II (BBC1, Thurs) finds him still clueless in the face of industry chicanery, and the smoke-screen is wearing a bit thin. Jimmy Nail, who has weirdly built a pop career on this fictional foundation, is inextricably

linked with the character, and yet with the credit he takes for creating, writing, starring, executive producing and composing, he will have difficulty persuading anyone that he's not a control freak dangerously booked on wish-fulfilment. Rewriting himself as a love-able simpleton, methinks the lad doth protest too

much.

More lads on Never Mind the Buzzcocks (BBC2. Tues), a pop quiz show cloned from its stablemate They Think It's All Over. Presenter Mark Lamarr has laboured hard to compose a distinctive sign-off (as in 'My name's Nick Hancock" "this is me Clive Anderson..."), and he's come up with "I've been Mark Lamarr", which jarrs as much as the show it rounds off. The one original element is a game in which contestants see an ancient clip of a pop star at work and then have to pick out the much-aged icon from an identity.parade. In two cases out of three, they got it wrong. There's a brilliantly

cruel edge to the game's

just a line in the sand.

suggestion that identity is

distinctive culture.

Robert Hanks on Radio

i-media is, as you may know, the new watch-word in the BBC: in the past, radio and television each had separate departments dealing with news and current affairs, drama, light entertainment and so forth. Under the Birt regime, the radio and television arms are to be handcuffed together, creating new, bigger departments covering both media.

Some people who work in radio welcome the change. as giving them access to the far larger resources available to television. Others fear that radio will always be the iunior partner, will always lose out in the struggle for money, and that radio's distinctive strengths will be

obliterated. They're probably both right: radio will benefit. but only if it constantly fights its corner. It seems inevitable that, in a few vears, radio will lose its

After Redhead, silence

One problem in arguing this case is that you can't quantify cultural change. If you send out just one correspondent to the next foreign hotspot, you only have to shell out for one set of airfares, one set of hotel bills, one set of phone-bills; a balance sheet doesn't show the benefits of a different point

The other problem is that the bureaucratic change is confirming something that's already taking place: costcutting and low morale have meant that radio is starting to lose some of its confidence and sense of identity. It may be a symptom of

this that the excellent Radio Lives (Thursday, Radio 4), once dedicated to biographies of the great names of radio, has now expanded to include, in the words of its Radio Times billing, "the great names in radio, TV and beyond". True, last week we had a neat warts-and-all job on

Brian Redhead - possibly a bit heavy on the warts - but this week we had Liberace, whose connection with the medium didn't seem to extend far beyond an appearance on Desert Island Discs.

Considered by itself, this was vastly entertaining (and will do much, one hopes, to help the rehabilitation of Gerry Anderson, who was here as unobtrusively witty and sympathetic as we always knew he could be). Among other things, the programme quoted at length the Cassandra's celebrated attack on Liberace in the Daily Mirror a "deadly, winking, sniggering, snuggting, chromium-plated, scent-impregnated, luminous, quivering, giggling, fruit-flavoured, mincing, icecovered heap of mother love... the biggest sentimental vomit of all time": a verdict that seemed, by and large, to

stand up to the facts. Still, the sequence seems to tell you something: about radio's sense of its history. perhaps. Perhaps for that after Redhead there are no great popular names ten no more radio lives worth doing. I hope it's not true; I fear it may be

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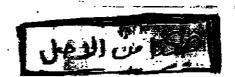
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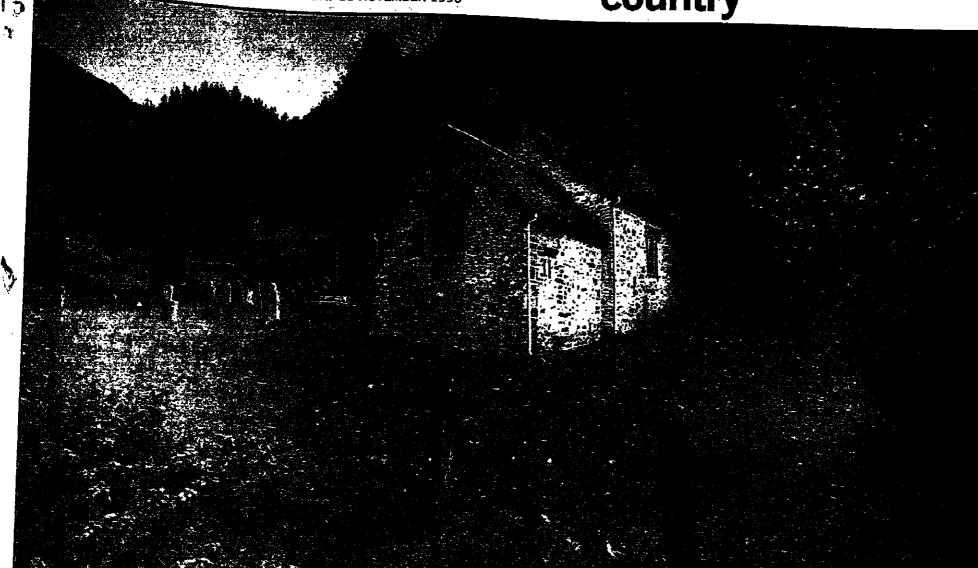
Lyttelton Theatre John Gabriel Borkman

Death of a Salesman

Cottesloe Theatre Fair Ladies at a Game of Poem

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The tiny church at Culbone, recorded in the Domesday Book, is said to be the smallest in England

Hidden hamlet of Exmoor

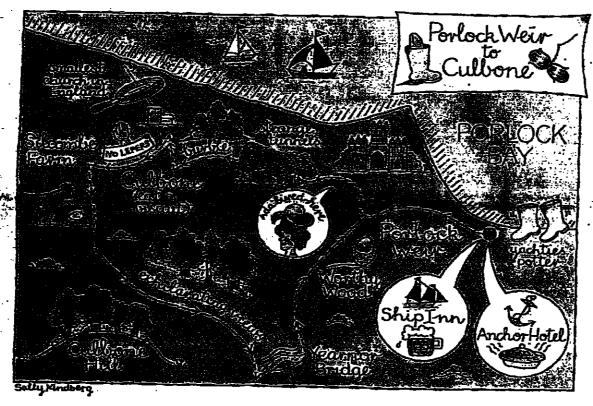
A coastal stroll from Porlock Weir to Culbone. By Hamish Scott

idden by steep hills on Exmoor's coastal fringe, Porlock Weir has somehow managed to survive the dangers of excessive prettiness. Old cottages, a hotel and a pub cluster round the harbour. Yellow-booted yachties potter on their boats, children clatter by on ponies and seriously kitted hikers argue over maps. Reached only by a narrow lane, the village has limited appeal to car-bound tourists but is a starting-point for those who like to venture off the Tarmac. Walkers, with a five-mile stroll and lunch in mind, can continue round the coast on a chem through Culbone, an intriguing fittle hamlet far from any public road.

Starting from beyond the hotel, the path to Culbone climbs through open fields with distant views of the Welsh coast and briefly joins the toll road up to Exmoor before diverting into wood-land by an ornate neo-Gothic gate-house. Early in the 19th century the Earl of Lovelace built a home here for his bride, Byron's daughter Ada, A rambling romantic folly, Ashley Coombe ended as a private club of dubious repute before demolition in the Fifties. Now the path to Culbone leads through strange, dark tunnels that once shielded Ada's sensibilities from the distressing sight of tradesmen approaching her front door.

The climb is steep, up log-lined steps cut into the hillside. Long stretches of the path still wind beneath the shade of ancient oaks, with only birdsong and the Domesday Book and over the past murmur of the sea 500ft below intruding on the muffled silence.

deep within a hidden coombe announces the approach to Culbone. There is a drift of wood smoke in the air and glimpses of a trim churchyard



the hamlet, you find few signs of the

present century. Culbone has a strange and chequered history. The tiny church - the smallest in England - is recorded in thousand years the isolated settlement has been an outpost of the early Celtic The distant sound of running water church, a place of banishment, a leper colony and a Non-Conformist commune. In the late 18th century it became a thriving village of foresters and charcoal burners. Now just a scatbetween the trees. Even on arrival in tering of cottages remains.

From Culbone Church the coastal path continues towards County Gate. Just before Silcombe Farm, a narrow lane winds back towards Porlock, with exhilarating views from 900ft above sea level, before finally rejoining the toll road back to Porlock Weir. The slope is steep as the road snakes through hairpin bends down into the coombe, but a bridge across the stream gives access to a footpath through the woods that provides a safer route for walkers. Back in Porlock Weir, the Ship Inn

on the harbour. Far from being rivals, they are under the same management; the grander looking Anchor doing all the food, with the Ship as a public bar. The hotel has a proper restaurant, with game and local sea-food, or simpler food at the rather formal bar. It's comfortable and friendly, but the Ship is a better place to quench the thirst after a long walk. The garden gives views across the bay to steep, wooded hills. Somewhere deep within those tangled branches lies Culbone; just two miles and the Anchor Hotel stand together away, but in quite another world.

• From Porlock Weir car park continue past hotel and turn left on to signposted coastal path. Cross fields to Tarmac road, then turn right and continue 200yds to gatehouse.

• Just before gatehouse, bear right, down footpath signed to Culbone.

Follow footpath signs to

Culbone. • From Culbone Church, continue on track, following to Silcombe. Just before Silcombe Farm. turn left on to lane. Follow lane for two miles and

bear left on to toll road. Continue down road to footpath sign at Yearnor Bridge. Cross bridge, then turn left down woodland path Follow path down to Tarmac road.

 Cross road on to footpath back to Porlock Weir. Length of walk: five miles (about two hours)

On 2 November, in our walk from the Slad valley to Cranham we inadvertently directed readers along a track that is not a public footpath. Start north from Bull's Cross through Biackstable Wood. But do not, as stated, keep heading uphill. Half a mile before the end of the wood, fork left (downhill), over two lanes. across the fields to Clissold Farm. Keep on the signed footpath to Far End. There bear right into the beech woods now owned by the National Trust. Follow the track right through, until it rejoins the route we gave at Ebworth Farm.



Duff **Hart-Davis** Many Bewick swans are still in Holland, detained by a superabundance Much has been learnt about them- not least, of their favourite pond weed

Will Abelhard and Pedro come home? To find out, children of all ages are anxiously awaiting Heading South. BBC2's three live programmes about the migration of Bewick swans, to be broadcast next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

On 8 February this year, at the Wildlife and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge, the two big male birds were fitted with radios which transmit to satellites, in the hope of teaching scientists more about the swans' 2,500-mile journey to and from their breeding grounds in the Russian Arctic.

The radios rectangular boxes 4ins long, with short aerials were mounted between the birds' shoulder blades and secured with stretchy harnesses. They were programmed to come on the air every 13 days, then to transmit for eight hours continuously.

Pedro took off from Slimbridge at midday on 26 February, with his mate, Weaver. Three days later he was over 13 March he had reached Jutland; then he went off the air, presumably because his battery had failed

Abelhard proved a more reliable station. He did not leave Slimbridge until 17 March, but then set out with his mate, Mid-Off, in a party of 27 Bewicks and made rapid progress to the north east. By 10 April he was off the coast at Stanga, in Sweden; 11 days later satellites picked him up in the valley of the Kasari

River in Estonia. On 16 May he was north of Archangel, off the White Sea coast of Russia; 11 June found him at the mouth of the River Oma, 66:47 degrees north. On 24 June he reached the west coast of Kolguyev Island, at 69:06 north, where a series of five good fixes suggested that he had settled down

there on a breeding site. One last message came through on 19 July, but a null reading from the activity sensor suggested that the device had fallen off.

Now the staff at Slimbridge are eagerly waiting to find out whether their two airborne research assistants have bred, and whether they will bring families back with them.

The particular fascination of Bewick swans is that they can be identified by the unique black-and-yellow patterns on their bills. that they pair for life.

Pedro was identified as a cygnet at Welney in 1983: now, at 13, he is half-way through a normal lifespan. He spent his first 10 winters at Welney, then in 1993 appeared at Slimbridge with Weaver and three young. (Weaver had been identified as a cygnet in 1977). Abelhard is also a regular visitor to Slimbridge: he is at least 12 years old, and has brought Mid-Off there

for the past six winters. Behind these bare facts lie several minor tragedies. Both males, it seems, must have had former mates. What happened to them?

As the BBC programmes will show many hazards beset the migrants on their way to and from the tundra. They can be forced down by bad weather, fly into telegraph wires, die of lead-poisoning from shotgun pellets, or be killed by primitive hunters. The sad fact (revealed by x-rays) is that nearly a third of the birds that winter at Slimbridge are

carrying lead shot.
Mild weather and persistent westerly winds have made this a late swan season. In a normal year there would be a couple of hundred Bewicks at Slimbridge by now, but there are scarcely half that, and many are still in Holland, detained by a superabundance of their

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favourite pond weed. Imagine them on their way, flying at 50mph, in V-shaped skeins for maximum aerodynamic efficiency, five or six thousand feet above the surface of the earth. Heading South will doubtless capture some of the romance and magic of migration, but mysteries will remain.

How do Pedro and Abelhard retain an image of their far-off wintering grounds, all through the Arctic summer? How do they navigate during their two-month passage? And how do they time their arrival to come in at night, causing a tremendous clamour among travellers who have already reached

Once a dog has tasted blood

. What happens if your family pet becomes a sheep killer? By Daniel Butler

has been judged a killer. It remains for us to dispose of him. We find ourselves crushed between our squeamish urban upbringing and the realities of our new rural lifestyle. Our dog is both a gentle creature who plays with our toddler, and a hunter with the instincts of a wolf

Bracken is a lurcher, a mongrel running dog, born to catch rabbits and hares. When we got him he was small enough to nestle in my palm. He grew fast, and was greyhound-sized when we left the rat race for our slice of Welsh self-sufficient heaven. He came into his own when our son, Jack. learnt to walk, and used him as an animated Zimmer frame. Now he is now the two-year-old's best friend - endlessly patient as he is hauled backwards by the tail, forced to sit on a whim or made to jump obstacle warses on habbling command.

Nor has he been short of admirers first summer he won two rosettes at agricultural shows and prompted respeetful nudges by setting about numcrops rabbits and squirrels with gusto.

All this was transformed last week. however, when the local farmer found

racken is on death row. Our pet Two others survived with deep gashes to their back legs. Although no one witnessed the crime, the circumstantial evidence pointed to Bracken. The culprit was a big dog - the bite marks indicated this - and the attack took place miles from anyone but us. If this weren't enough, for the first time in three years, the previous day we had seen Bracken playfully herding sheep in the self-same field. "Once a sheep killer, always a

sheep killer," was the farmer's reaction. "You'll never cure him. Put him down, the quicker the better - I'll do it, if you want."

Anywhere else, detection, verdict and sentence might have been more measured, but this is rural Wales, where 11 million sheep are the backbone of the economy. Anything that poses a threat to them is shot or poisoned, while anyone harbouring their enemies is ostracised. Clear. decisive action was needed. But this among our Weish neighbours. In his was Bracken, and we were not prepared to surrender him mockly to summary justice.

So we ran through the alternatives. Could be be retrained, chaperoned and muzzled? This was ruled out. Almost everyone, from National



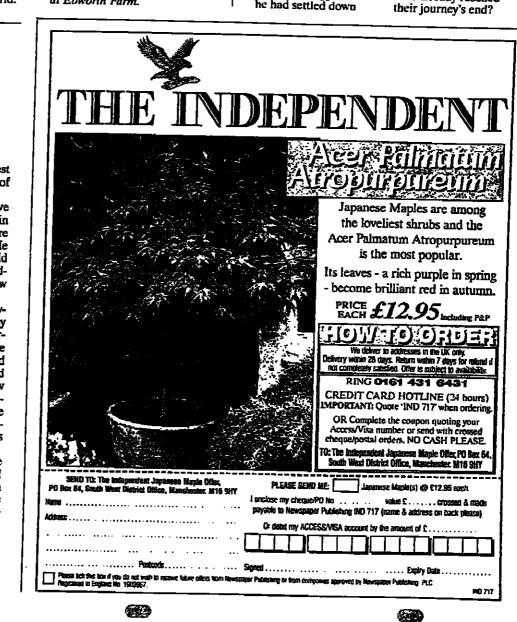
centres, says it is impossible to put the genie back into the bottle once a dog tastes blood. And the local farmers are certainly convinced of this, so any belief that he could be retrained was immaterial.

As news of this - most beinous of canine sins - spreads, sooner or later he will be shot if he remains here. Until then the blame for every dead sheep in a 20-mile radius will be laid a partially-eaten ewe near our house. Farmers' Union to lurcher rescue at our door. That leaves us two choices: give away our son's best friend, or sacrifice him on the altar of local opinion.

Worried, but not yet frantic, we rang round every acquaintance in non-sheep-farming parts where there was the slightest hope of a home. "He is young, but housetrained," we said in our pitch. "Wonderful with children, a good traveller - and you know how handsome he is."

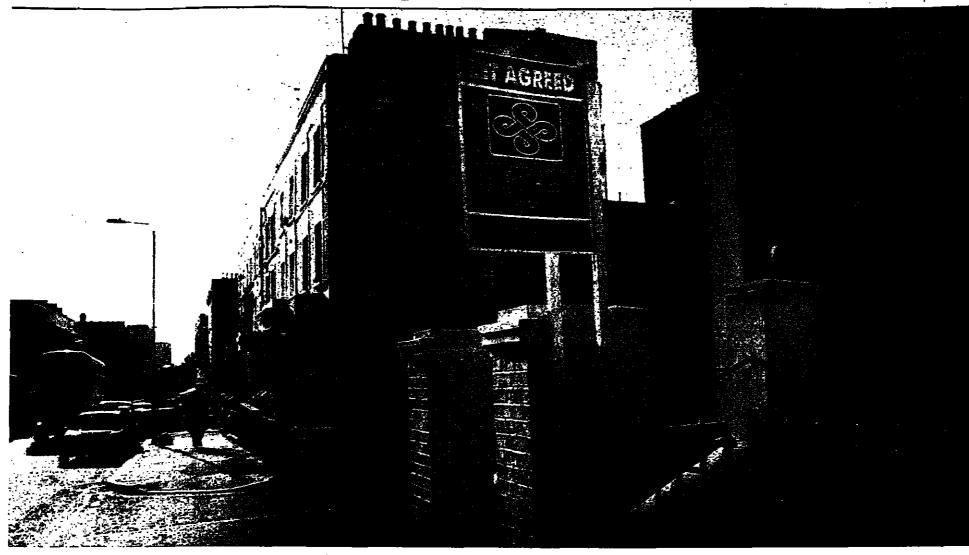
There were no takers, although several hesitated. Some were put off by the thought of Bracken's daily exercise, others said he was too big, while another confessed to pregnancy and to being daunted by sharing what used to be a spacious flat with just one new arrival, let alone two. An ex-girlfriend and confirmed vegetarian came closest. She could cope with everything, except Bracken killing squirrels or rabbits in her local park.

So for the foreseeable future Bracken is confined to barracks. I informed the farmer of our decision to rehouse rather than execute the dog. To my surprise, he seemed posinvely relieved. "I once had to shoot one of my own dogs and I still regret it," he said. "No one likes to see a dog killed. You're doing something about it that's the main thing."



money & nomes

Small cars make a comeback.....25 Museum shops: gifts inspired by glass



In the last few months, lettings in London and the south east have increased tenfold

rental boom has seen the mush-

rooming of letting agents and neither

landlord nor tenant is protected from

the cowboy operator. This year has

seen the collapse of two London

agencies, and there are fears that

out London have been kept busy

from the interest in rentals, is very

concerned about the headlong rush

to invest in rentals. "It is not for wid-

ows and orphans. Rental levels may

go higher, but they may go down.

Supply could outstrip demand in

certain areas. And, of course, inter-

est rates could go up. It is essential

that people consult a reputable let-

ting agent or chartered surveyor for a building audit before buying."

have money put aside for a rainy day.

The rental side has grown faster

than sales, and as with all booms the

bust could follow. No one should buy

for an investment just because they

were told at a dinner party that it was

Mr Agace warns of the need to

embezzlement is on the increase. Simon Agace, chairman of Winkworth, whose branches through-

The headlong rush for rentals

Penny Jackson reports on the Buy-to-Let scheme

these days is more likely to be their finances into an investment 'So have you bought a prop-Lerty for investment, yet?" rather than "How much is your house worth?" The buoyancy of the rental market has created a new breed of property investor: the home-owner with some cash to spare.

Before the property slump, a more expensive house might have seemed dancy payment and bought when indemnity cover. The ARLA scheme to an accountant in his late twenties the obvious financial path to take, but the market was low. "I paid £45,000 has brought on board four mortgage for £90,000. It is now being let for £275 the trauma of negative equity has left everyone more cautious. Owners learnt to their cost that houses can go down as well as up in value and although they now wish to take advantage of a strengthening property market, this time they will not risk the family home.

It was during the recession that the rented sector took off. The traditional first-time buyer felt it safer to rent. while lettings became a lifeline for those stuck with a home they couldn't sell. Landlords at this time also saw the benefits of the 1988 Housing Act that ended the "fair rent system" as well as giving them the right to recover property at the end of a tenancy. Owning and letting began to look attractive to those who had never considered it before.

Reports of high rental yields and

they can walk round the corner and inspect. This was a key factor in John Derby's decision to become a landclose eye on his investment. In his for a one-bedroom flat in Acton,

which was a bargain because it had

off-street parking. I spent £5,000 doing it up and I let it for £165 a week," says Mr Derby. "Initially I was paying 16 per cent to an agent who managed everything. But after I bought a second flat I decided to look after them myself. If a flat does need a plumber, say, a letting agent has no incentive to keep costs down. I now pay 8 per cent to an agent for finding and vetting ten-

and contracts." What else has he learnt about the role of a landlord? "Choose a place rental income they intend to sell and that is easy to let, not because you like it, and do it up to good standard second-hand furniture is out of the has led the rental boom, it is an question. Always go round immediately a tenant has a problem and a strengthening sales market have never accept hard-luck stories about

ants and handling the references

bricks when it happened to me," adds Mr Derby.

However, anyone who wishes to take out a loan under the new Buylord. He wanted to be able to keep a to-Let initiative has to use the management services of an agent who fifties with the mortgage on a family belongs to the Association of Resihome in London almost paid off, he dential Letting Agents (ARLA), a self found himself cash rich after a redun-regulatory body with professional lenders who offer loans of up to 80 a week, giving an exceptionally high per cent of a property's value, in line with the rates for owner-occupiers and take rental income into account for servicing the loan.

Since it was launched, letting agents in the south-east in particular - have been swamped with callers. Andrew Reeves, an ARLA letting agent in Bromley, has seen the numbers increase tenfold in the past few months. "A great many people with a strong asset base now wish to provide for their retirement instead of relying on a pension fund or other form of investment. After five or 10 years of

enjoy the capital appreciation." Although prime central London exceptional market fuelled by company lets - Savills says it accounts for 42 per cent of their business -

dinner party conversation further encouraged people to shift late rent, I came down like a ton of and a strong overseas element, Ian Dickson, of the Winkworth

estate agency, says there has been a rush of professional people with capital to spare, and now one in 10 buyers in his area. Shepherds Bush in London, intends to let. "Flats as large as possible, especially architecturally unattractive ones, are a sensible choice of investment. We recently sold one return of 15 per cent. I have a former council flat for sale at present which brings in the same return. It will have almost zero capital growth, though."

New landlords elsewhere are targetting students as a rich source of rental income. In Nottingham, Tony Pinks of Savills, sees a growing number of people who have been left money buying into multiple occupancy properties or regulated tenancies because they can expect to see gross returns of up to 20 per cent. While in Plymouth, where property prices are not high, student accommodation can produce yields of some 18 per cent net, says Edward Heaton of Stratton Creber, However, under the Buy-to-Let scheme some lenders will not consider loans for property let to groups of students.

ARLA Buy-to-Let hotline: 01923the Buy-to-Let scheme some lenders and specifical not consider loans for property atton Index of Private Rents and Yields is available free from The Centre of Housing Policy, University of York.

a brilliant thing to do."

Property still an investment?

for 30 years and the average home costs a bare three times the average earnings compared with almost five times earnings at the peak of the boom in 1988. That means property is more affordable than at any time for a decade. With unemployment supposed to be at its lowest level for five years the scene should be set for a sustained rally in property prices. A recovery is indeed.

definitely under way in the property market after five years of slump and stagnation, but it is unequally distributed and large sectors of the market, especially starter homes and large swathes of properties outside prime locations have seen no real recovery at all. According to the Halifax Building Society's quarterly survey prices across the country in the third quarter were 5.4 per cent higher than they were this time last year. But the range of increases goes all the way from 18 per cent in Northern Ireland, where the property market is still basking in the reflected glow from the IRA ceasefire, to 10 per cent in Greater London and down to just over two per cent in Scotland, Yorkshire,

Humberside and East Anglia. Worse still, turnover in the housing market is still depressed, with something like 1.3 million homes likely to change hands this year. That is well up from the low point of 1.14 million in 1995 but far below the peak of 2.15 million in the boom year of 1988. Optimistic estate agents are quick to point out that there is actually now a shortage of suitable homes for sale in many areas because potential sellers took their houses off the market when they could not find a buyer in the recession and have not yet realised that a

seller's market is returning. But this is not an entirely bullish factor. An artificial shortage of homes on the market could well be the biggest single reason for the local increases in property prices. If potential sellers do begin to put their

London Property

ortgage rates are at homes on the market again in increasing aumbers. turnover could rise, but a proper balance of supply and demand could help prices to stabilise.

prices

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Rosal

And confidence remains fragile. Aithough the mortgage lenders and estate agents have been quick to claim that the surprise rise in base rates inst month represents no threat to the recovery, the memory of rising mortgage payments, falling prices, and the horror of negative equity which locked almost two million buyers into their homes remains very fresh. There are still half a million people with zero or negative equity, which effectively means they cannot move because they cannot afford to clear their existing mortgage in order to qualify for a new one. The housing market is

also looking to the Budget in ten days time so see whether the Chancellor is planning a seasonal trickor-treat. Ever hopeful. optimists are woodering whether the Chancellor will raise the standing point for payment of stand duty on property sales above the current level of \$50,000. But the pessimists are equally concerned that he might be tempted to press ahead with the phasing out of tax relief on mortgage interest in order to recoup some tax relief on mortgage interest which could be recycled in the form of a cut in the basic rate of income tax and an increase in tax free allowances. With mortgage rates at an average of seven per cent, the interest on the first £30,000 of a mortgage should be around £2,100. The tax relief at 15 per cent amounts to a maximum of £27 a month, but spread across 11 million mortgages it costs. the Exchequer nearly three billion pounds a year which in turn would allow him to make a cut of over 1p in the pound in the standard rate of income tax. The possibility is plausible enough for the estate agents' association to have specifically warned the Chancellor that abolishing Miras will do more harm to the recovery than a rise in mortgage rates.

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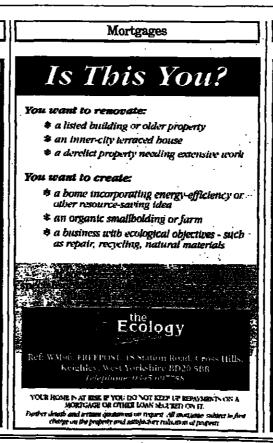


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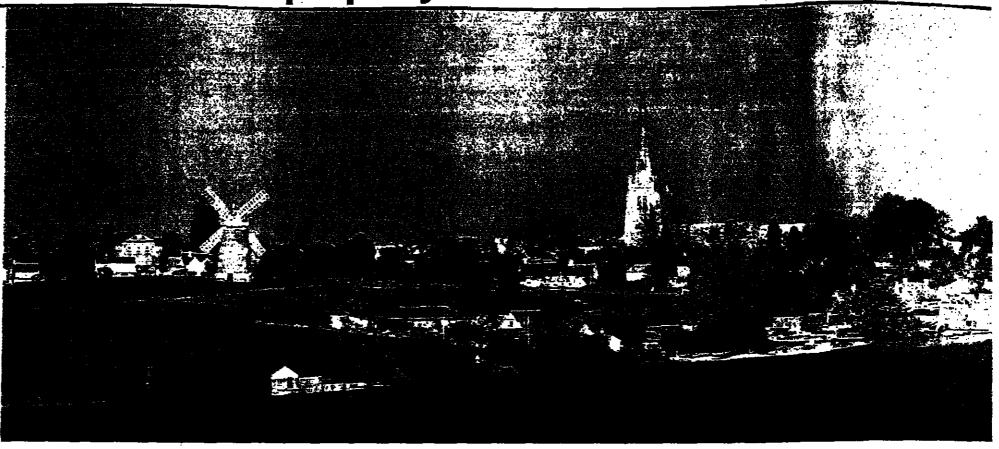
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The Cardwar's Cottage for Birtchiey Fort (WW) Entigens say coster and birthelesse of the electronic computer) was built to 1800 in Union Associated States 1300 in Union Associated States 130 both, Supplication - during ston Mature private garden. Fasture, I car 5 mans walt fig. 25 mags Euron. £69,995 Tel: 01908 630100

Overseas Property



Prices are rising in East Anglia, reports Rosalind Russell



A shortage of desirable property: Thaxted in Essex

PHOTOGRAPH: BRIAN HARRIS

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ast Anglia was one of the first regions to experience soaring house prices. They then fell almost as dramatically. Now a shortage of desirable property has coaxed prices back to 1991 levels - and above, for large country houses with land.

A three-bedroom cottage in a village in Suffolk now costs around £180,000, says Tun Dansie, of Strutt & Parker in Ipswich. That compares with Buckinghamshire or Surrey, and wipes the floor with the London boroughs of Wandsworth and Fulham. Job confidence has encouraged City workers to venture out along the train links from Liverpool Street.

Tony Mullucks, of Mullucks Wells, confirms: "The appeal is the fast and reliable train service, especially for those working long hours, as Stansted Airport ensures trains run from early morning to late at

Tim Dansie cites a new development at all, but some villages enjoy the benefits Navland, on the Essex/Suffolk border, as without the decibels. Manuden, Henham, a prime example of the City worker influ- Clavering and the Rodings have gained

Househunting in East Anglia

Old Hall near Woodbridge in Suffolk, a 16th-century Grade II-listed five-bedroom farmhouse, has exposed timbers and inglenook fireplaces. The 24ft attic room has been converted into a playroom/studio. Formal gardens are surrounded by farmland, to almost an acre. £270,000 through Strutt &

of Colchester, is a group of eight houses

built on a 17-acre site. Two were sold

before a brick was laid, despite prices of

Stansted does not bring unalloyed joy to

£400,000-plus,

from the airport, says Tony Mullucks. Even villages which have suffered from ence. Gainsborough Place, six miles north

214841).
Pit Cottage, a brick-and-flint former blacksmith's

Parker in Ipswich (01473

cottage in Brandon, on the Norfolk/Suffolk border in five acres with pond, has three bedrooms, a study, a 21ft kitchen and storerooms.A structural survey is available to serious applicants. £168,500 through Bedfords in Bury St Edmunds (01284

Woodwell Furlong, a 17th-

address is in Suffolk).

noise are now seen as value for money.

Neil Thomas and his wife Cheryl own a

bouse in Islington, and also a pair of cot-

tages in a secluded valley four miles from

Sudbury in Hickbush, Essex (the postal

The cottages are part of a group of four,

century Grade II-listed thatched three-bedroom cottage in Church Street, Norfolk, has three reception rooms, a conservatory, a study and an acre of gardens

worked by the owner, a garden designer. £175,000 through Bedfords (01284 Wealden House near Sudbury was designed and built by Stephen Mattick, a builder admired by Prince

Yoxford, Suffolk, is a sixbedroom barn conversion, Grade II-listed, with galleried drawing room, vaulted dining hall, under-floor heating, Charles for his attention to automatic central vacuum

internal door links the two, but they have their own staircases, kitchens, bathrooms

detail. The reception half

flagstone floor. £260,000

through Muliucks Wells

Saffron Walden (01799

boards, the kitchen a

floor is herringbone brick, the

Strickland Manor Farm at

drawing room has polished

In Islington, we are on the right side of London to escape to Suffolk, which takes about an hour and a half," says Neil. He and his wife are now thinking of mov-

520520).

cleaning system and antiquestyle fittings. An 18ft playroom opens on to a walled garden. £285,000, Bidwells in Ipswich (01473 611644).

The School House in Thaxted, Essex, a late-Victorian four-bedroom headmaster's house, has double gables, bargeboarding, and a walled garden. £110,000, Bruce Munro in Saffron Walden (01799 522628).

dating from the 17th century, colour-washed rendered with peg-tiled roofs. An the two-bedroom cottages up for sale - one at £112,500, the other at £82,500 - through agents Thorntons.

We are interested in another house which we have admired in Suffolk for 11 years. It has bigger rooms more suitable for family gatherings, more land, a pool and - more important - a couple of barns

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which could be converted into offices. It will force us to change the way we live."

The good life is drawing others to the area. In Cambridgeshire, Bidwells reports a re-emergence of London buyers.

Meanwhile, guide prices in Cambridgeshire are being easily exceeded a

competition for the best houses increases "Prices in the last year have been creeping up by around 5 to 7 per cent for bet ter properties, and up to 12 per cent fo those in extreme demand," says Bidwells Christopher Carey.

In Norfolk, the firm's "under offer" book is 35 per cent ahead of their bool this time last year. And in their Suffoll branch, they report fresh money comin-out of London and the Home Counties being flourished mostly by 35-to-45-year olds with young families. Buyers ar looking for timber-framed farmhouses, o the edge of a village, within half a hour's drive of Ipswich and so com mutable to London. They cost from £175,000 upwards.

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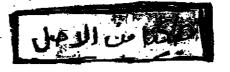
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came, it was clear we were

going to need a lot more. In

the end, the business did hang

together, but it was extremely

Looking back, having all that cash there from day one

taught me a bloody good les-

son. I could go out and recruit

very high-quality people

ital base to support it, even

Stephen Pinner: 'You get low' PETER MACDIARMID

Business was not

My worst mistake

Stockbroker Stephen Pinner

n 1987, I was working draw up the business plans for Hoare Govett, and everything else. I was which was going soon persuaded that we through a change of ownership at the time, and I had an idea for what I thought could be a great new business.

I had been to America, and to raise capital. seen the way stockbrokers there used independent com-panies to do all their backroom work. The brokers first that we'd only need two themselves would go out into or three client firms to make the market and buy the it all work but, when the Crash shares. Then they handed the settlement work and all the admin over to somebody else.

I thought there could be a big demand for a similar service here, so I decided I wanted to set up an independent UK securities clearing

I got hugely excited about idea, and soon found myself surrounded by teams of professional advisers and though the income wasn't

bank all the time can really take your eye off the ball. needed 13m to get this thing Instead of going out and buying just the space we ini- sold on. off the ground, which we con-

sequently went out and raised.
At that time, it wasn't difficult tially needed, we took the decision to buy 16,000 or 17,000 square feet outside Security Settlements plc was launched in the week of the 1987 Crash. We thought at London and 2,500 square feet for a nice City office, because we could afford to do it. The business plan told us it was all going to come good, and not to worry.

As a result of all this, everyone became a bit too comfortable and sometimes we missed the main chance. It was impossible in some cases to motivate the staff. They knew we had good reserves and often performed as if we had a long-established busi-

knowing that I'd got the capraise another £1.5m within the first 18 months of opera-

got that kind of facility at the uon, and we were always chasing capital. Eventually, the main investors got rather rired of it all, and the company was

> A few years later, when the time came to start City Deal Services, I did so with just £50,000, which was the minimum capital you had to have at that time. Like all start-up businesses, City Deal didn't make a profit straight away. but it very quickly became profitable to the point where, in the last year before acqui-

I can laugh about it now, but it took me about three years to get the Security Settlements thing out of my system You get fairly low, you feel disappointed, and then you get real. I've had all those emotions. Now, if I was starting a business again, and I had

a choice of starting with £3m

or starting with £50,000, I'd go the lower way every time. There is an argument that. once you've got a business plan that says you need a cer-tain amount of capital - no matter what the number is and no matter how scientific you've been - you should double it. These days, I'd prefer to go the other way.

If you're starting from scratch, with no involvement from any of the major entities, I would certainly want to have enough capital, but not sition, it generated a profit of about £800,000. capital, but not enough to let day-to-day profitability come too far down the line. The only thing that makes a business tick is people having a focus on the amount of money it's generating. That's the key."

> Stephen Pinner is managing director of City Deal Services, execution-only stockbrokers. He was talking to Paul Slade.

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Hey big spender! Are you a Geordie?

People from Tyneside spend £3.15 a week on the National Lottery. Clifford German asks why

id you know that Geordies gamble an average £3.15 a week on the National Lottery, a good 25 per cent above the national average, and they are followed by residents of the Border TV region, who spend an average of £2.75 a week? Exactly why this should be so is clearly not a simple question, since Geordies may be financially insecure, but the rural borderers should have less to worry about in that respect than most other regions.

At the other end of the scale, the inhabitants of

South-west England, from Dorset down to Cornwall, spend just £2.03 a week, which may have something to do with the remains of a non-conformist tradition. But this will not explain why south of Englanders are the next lowest spenders with £2.27 each, or why relatively affluent Londoners spend only £2.33, and the canny Lowland Scots spend £2.47 and the even cannier Highlanders £2.38.

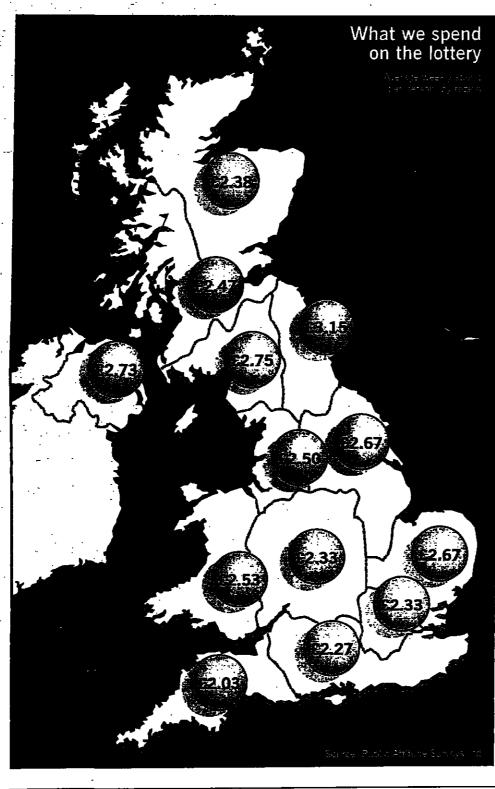
One day, theses will be written about the mentality of National Lottery players. The basic appeal of the lottery is glaringly obvious. Although the odds are among the poorest available to gamblers, with 50 per cent of the weekly stake siphoned off by good causes, the Treasury, ticket-sellers and the lottery's operators, the lure of a multi-million pound jackpot is irresistible, however long the odds.

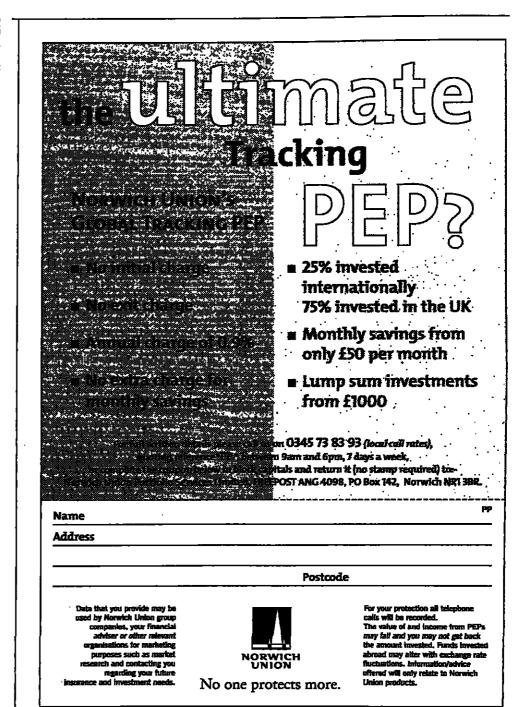
The widespread national sense of insecurity nowadays means that the prospect of a jackpot win which will, at a stroke, abolish all the winner's worries about unemployment, and the need for life insurance, health insurance, mortgages, pensions and long-term care plans is even more attractive than it would have been in the palmy days of full employment and the allembracing welfare state.

But regional and social differences among punters are still very strong. Sociologists would say that the fact that the biggest spenders on the National Lottery are in social class C2, which stakes an average £2.67 a week on the lottery, is exactly what we might expect. They are members of the social class which statistics show has most to fear from unemployment, but currently has some spare cash to gamble with.

The next highest spenders are in Classes D and E, who toss away £2.48 a week, but that could simply be a function of them having even more insecurity but a little less spare cash. Class C1 spends £2.42 a week, and classes A and B just £2.32, although whether this reflects the lesser pressure on the better off to try and escape from insecurity or a better understanding of the odds against winning is a sensitive issue.

Age groups are equally revealing. The lottery habit is least prevalent among young adults aged between 16 and 24, but remains relatively constant among the rest of the working population, (although there is a slight peak in the 45-54 age group) and dips slightly among pensioners. It probably means that the young and the old have less money to spare than the middle age groups. But could it mean the young still think they can make it on their own, pensioners are resigned to their lot in life, and it is the middle-aged who are most desperate to escape from their lifestyle?





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loose change

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details or ask an IFA. If you have £10,000 you can get 6.50 per cent gross paid annually or 6.31 per cent paid monthly on a 30-day notice postal account with First National Building Society in Guernsey, Rates rise to 6.75 per cent on £250,000.

an annual charge of 1.5 per cent. Call 0800-212577 for

Yorkshire Building Society is offering two new mortgages. one a variable rate (currently 6.59 per cent) which cannot exceed 7.99 per cent in the first five years, with an arrangement fee of £250 and

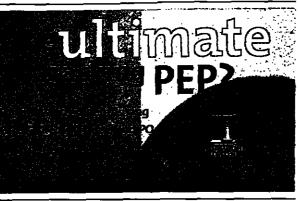
of 4.5 per cent within six years; the other a discount of 0.6 per per cent within six years.

Leeds & Holbeck has increased rates on its postal accounts to 5.70 per cent for £10,000 and 6.1 per cent on

General Accident Direct is adding up to £2.000 of contipental breakdown cover and ski cover to its Travelbond policies. Premiums range from £22.07 for 10 days and £34.48 for 22 days to £64.29 for an annual policy. Call 0800 121007.

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Sale reaches fever pitch

Alison Eadie reports on how the world is copying the UK's privatisations

Roll up, roll up for the great privatisation sale. It may be winding down in the UK, but the pace is quickening in Europe, Latin America and South-east Asia.

This week there have been sales pitches from Mercury and Guinness Flight, arguing that the investment success of UK privatisations can be repeated elsewhere in the world and now is an excellent time to be jumping on board. To underline its point, Mercury has waived dealing charges until the end of the year on investments in Mercury European Privati-sation Trust (MEPT) bought through its investment trust savings plan and Guinness Flight is allowing former shareholders in the Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit) to buy into its Global Privatisation Fund free of initial charge and with a 1 per cent bonus allocation of units added at the end of next year. The offer lasts until 9 December.

Such vigorous drum banging is not ust because new privatisations are coming thick and fast - over the next five years some \$200bn of state assets are expected to be sold in Europe and \$100bn in the rest of the world - but also to counter negative publicity generated by the winding up of Kepit.

Kepit's disappointing performance over its two-and-a-half-year life raised doubts whether privatisation worked as well in countries with less free-market zeal than Thatcherite Britain. Thierry Ferero, manager of Fidelity's Global Privatisation Fund. said that UK privatisation worked because the government allowed companies to change their culture and go for productivity and profits growth. "If the state privatises assets without relinquishing control or if friendly shareholders keep a dominant stake, there is no incentive for management to change."

He said the culture in Europe was changing with Germany grasping the nettle ahead of France and the picture still complicated in Italy. In emerging markets, which make up 25 per cent of Fidelity's fund, the story is different as privatisations are bought for growth, not for restructuring and cost-cutting potential as in the developed world.

"We look at whether management



is good enough to deliver the long term infrastructure projects," Mr Ferero said.

The investment parameters of privatisation funds have a significant impact on performance. Kepit was unlucky in that it raised too much money at the top of the market, but it also suffered from a narrower investment approach than its peers. It concentrated on new issues in continental Europe and was that by overpricing of issues, notably in France and Haly.
MEPT, whose launch timing was

equally bad, has a wider brief and a its shares have delivered a total return better performance to show for it. It of only 18.2 per cent. The wide dis-

interprets privatisation to include old UK issues - its two biggest holdings are aero-engine manufacturer Rolls-Royce and British Airways - and companies that buy assets from govern-ments. It also has almost 8 per cent in Eastern Europe. Paul Harwood, MEPT joint manager, says a privatisation ceases to be eligible when it

stops making money for the trust. Since launch in March 1994, MEPT's total net asset value has risen by an undiluted 37.7 per cent against a rise of 28.1 per cent in the benchmark MSCI Europe index, but

count of shares to their net asset value, which eventually forced Kepit's demise, is improving for MEPT partly as a result of its share buyback proas a result of the share buyback programme. But at \$15 per cent discount,
against an investigated trust average of
10 per pent the spaces are still lagging,
and therefore cheap, according to
Lough California, managing director of
Marcury Investment Trusts.
He says: "If you believe a is a good
time to invest in Europe as interest

rates come down and in privatisations

Funds for private investors include investment and unit trusts, which trade at asset value, and range from trade at asset value, and range from global privatisation and utility funds, which are similar in content given their high proportion of telecom and energy stocks, to more narraw geographical or sectoral funds. GT's Telecommunications Fund, a European unit trust, invests with at least but only in companies with at least half of earnings or assets in telecommunications. Ste

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Many of the global trests are fully PEPable, which requires that at least half their assets are in Europe. But asset allocation can differ after that. Gartmore Global Utilities has 15 per cent of assets in North America, having made good money out of the regional US telephone companies, whereas Fidelity Global Privatisation has nothing there. Jeremy Podger, manager of Guinness Flight Globul Privatisation Fund, says: We believe the balanced global approach is more beneficial in hedging risk."

Private investors preferring to take the greater risk of buying privatisation shares directly rather than through a diversified fund will have plenty of choice, particularly of European issues. Deutsche Telekom, Europe's biggest privatisation, starts trading on world stock markets on Monday, having been well subscribed by private domestic investors.

However, international fund managers have been more lukewarm. and questioning whether the management culture has changed sufficiently for the company to succeed in the brave new competitive world.

The theory of privatisation investment holds that once free of government rule, companies become profit-driven shareholder conscious, efficient and able to gain advantage from near-monopoly stability tope class in the initial years. There will be pleaty of opportunity is just the theory in the next fall years, when global issues are employed in telecoms utilities, oil and gas, wirines, banks and other financials, sied and with pricing now more realistic, then
MEPT, with its above-average performance, has to be one of the more

beginning to the stock picking abilities of fund managers. They, at least, are convinced it is a buyer's market.

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*Source: Fidelity NAV to NAV with ner income reinvested CN/11/96. *Resources and assets include those of FMR Corp., a US company and affiliate (as at Solvers return that to the transfer the many is an amount to a second to the many go down as well as up and you may get back less than you meeted. Faleing only provides information about its produces and will not give investment advice based on individual circumstances. If shares are purchased through a protessional advice, commission may be deducted from your contributions. The annual management charge for FEV PLC, FAV PLC and FTV PLC is 1% and 0.95% for FSV PLC. Issued by Falelity Investments International which acts as the manager of the Investment Trust Savings Plan and of the gange of Falelity investment Trusts. Fidelity investments laternational is regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority.

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Money Marketing, 23rd November 1995.

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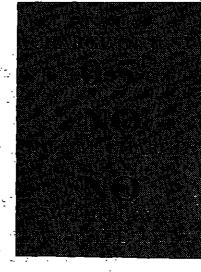
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for example, if growth was 10% p.a. a PEP which charges 1% a year would give you just 40% of this growth. Whereas the Index-Tracking PEP at

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little further down the road.

topped up, aithough it will be

impossible to guarantee that

a personal pension scheme will pay out the precise

amount that a company

scheme based on service and

final salary at work would

pay. SIB estimates that there

could be at least a 5 per cent

All this implies that providers still have a long

hard road to hoe to reach a

reasonable settlement, and

they have less excuse now for

dawdling. But holders of per-

sonal pensions who think

they were wrongly advised to

give up their company

schemes or not to join them

have to play their part as well.

per cent of them have

responded to requests from

There is no deadline or

even if it can be established

they were given a bad deal

and would have been demon-

strably better off to have

stayed in or joined a com-

sonal pension and persuaded

to leave a company scheme,

the company or adviser who

whether you feel you were

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the documents from your

The moral of the story is that if you were sold a per-

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Steps to make inquiry easier

Clifford German on pensions

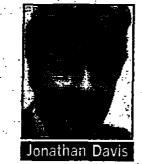
The Securities and Investment Board this week got create another bottleneck a round to chasing up the insurance companies and independent financial advis-sible, the investments in the ers which have been dealing personal pension should be with half a million "urgent" cases of mis-sold pensions with all the enthusiasm and speed of a Swiss bank disgorging war-time German gold. Insurance companies which, in the late Eighties, sold personal pensions to people who would probably have been better off in company schemes have assessed only 5 per cent of the 446,000 priority cases and offered redress to less than 2 per cent. Independent financial advisers have less of a workload, about 60,000, but have dealt with a minuscule proportion.

In an attempt to break the log-jam, SIB intends to tear up the list of 200 separate In some cases less than 30 questions which insurers and advisers have been using to establish the extent to which the insurers or advisers to the alleged victims have lost register a "complaint" so that money, and replace it with it can be vetted. eight simple questions.

Only when the questions cut-off point looming but have been answered will it be there is no way they can possible to assess whether qualify for compensation there is a case for compensation and, if so, what form it should take and how much it should be.

There are two possible options. The insurance companies or financial advisers can negotiate to buy their clients back into their original schemes, which will usually be the best option where you should even now write to the individual continues to

work for the same employer. sold you the pension. And if, But in many cases the as is probably the case, you ustees of the original have received a letter from trustees of the original schemes will set a high price the provider asking you to say for re-entry, and providers are obliged to comply with the original terms of the not advised, find the form scheme, where these are now and fill it in. If you have known, or with any subsequent improvements. This original pension scheme it alone will involve a great will help speed the process.



Richard Hills has seen the future of the invest-ment management business. And it lies in hedge funds. You don't know what they are? Well, don't be shamed. Most people in the investment business don't

George Soros runs a hedge fund, and if the term means anything to most people, it means a high-risk fund, domiciled somewhere exotic like Curacao, whose job is to speculate wildly in currencies or commodities with borrowed money. Hardly something that sensible investors want or need to worry about, in other

Mr Hills thinks differently. Hedge funds, he declares, are "the last great secret" in the investment business - "a

mance" that remain "largely unknown and unappreciated by most investors". Every serious investor with a large portfolio should have at least part of it invested in this kind of vehicle. They promise the Holy Grail of the investment world - higher returns for less risk. Strong words. Well, Mr

Hills is in the business. His firm, Argyll Investment Management, is a boutique outfit that sells its clients advice and expertise on how to get into hedge funds. It picks out the best performers and packages them into its own stable of low, medium and high-risk "hedge fund funds". At the moment, you need a minimum of \$250,000 to invest, but Mr Hills promises it won't be long - probably next year before ordinary retail investors will have the chance to invest in a hedge fund vehi-

Sounds too good to be true? Well, I am not so sure. Of course, higher returns for lower risk cannot endure forever. But, having visited Mr Hills last week, I can report (a) that he is no snake oil salesman, but a serious and

source of stunning perfor- adviser and (b) that he has derivatives. Both their but whether or not investors some convincing data to back strength and their weakness is his case. He points out correctly, that only a handful of the world's 5,000 hedge funds (under 5 per cent) are actually Soros-like funds, taking huge \$1bn bets on movements in the world's foreign exchange and bond markets. The majority are actually

quite different animals whose primary purpose, as their name implies, is not to take on huge risks, but to bedge against it. Hedge funds were invented by AW Jones, an Australian who was the first to discover that you could increase returns in the market substantially by backing your judgement that the shares you like will rise, while laying off the risk that the market as a whole will move against you. (The mechanics of doing so, for example by selling index futures, or shorting stocks, can be awesomely technical, but the principle is clear enough.)

True, all hedge funds are still domiciled in offshore havens where the tax man is encouraged not to call and the regulatory requirements are much less onerous than with conventional funds. They use

that they can and do trade in the period. all sorts of exotic instruments and markets - Russian debt, cocoa futures, you name it. Anyone who invests in them needs to do so with his eyes open about what he is getting

But that does not automatically make them spivvy, high-risk instruments. In fact, the recent data points in the other direction.

Not only have hedge funds consistently outperformed conventional managed funds in recent years, returning an average of 18 per cent a year, twice what the market did in the period 1988 to 1995, for example, but most have done so while taking on less, not more, risk than the average fund. If you put say six of the best hedge funds together in "a fund of funds", then as with all diversification, Argyll argues, the risk of loss becomes smaller still.

Most investors, says Mr Hills, are essentially risk averse, not risk seekers. What matters to them is not whether their fund has done better than the market as a whole (the criterion by which investment a lot of gearing and a lot of most unit trusts are judged),

have made or lost money over The second defining char-

acteristic is that the fund manager's pay is much more closely related to how well he does each year.

Typically, a good hedge fund manager will receive 25 per cent of any gain that his funds succeed in making over and above the risk-free rate of return available elsewhere in mean, producing the same the markets. It is a high price to pay, but one that investors only have to stump up when their fund is in the money. (With unit trusts you pay a flat fee based on the value of the fund, whether it goes up or

It means you are likely to get the smartest money managers working for you. The rewards for them, if they deliver, are potentially huge -Mr Soros does not make \$500,000 a week for nothing. But so are the skills required. Investing to make absolute returns every year is by definition much harder than just trying to beat the market, though even that proves too much for 80 per cent of unit trust managers each year.

Over the next few years, predicts Mr Hills, more of the UK's best fund managers will move into hedge funds, bringthem. Before we know it, a business which for years has endured the image of being a speculators' haven will start to become respectable. At that point, says Mr Hills.

the secret will be well and truly out, and the chances are that hedge fund performance will regress to the mediocre performance as most unit trusts do now. But, for the moment, the tide is running for those who understand the secret. In the short term I predict

that he will be proven right. True history is not that encouraging. The first great hedge fund bandwagon, in the 1960s, ended abruptly in tears when the market crashed. The difference now is that it is much easier, with the computing power available, to calibrate and measure the risks involved. And the calibre of player entering the game is undoubtedly changing - more brains, and in time no doubt also, more spivs.

Are investors up to the task of assessing the risks more accurately than before? That remains the big question.

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Chancellor will have much more than £3bn net to give back to taxpayers next April, not now that the health secresecured an extra £500m to spend on the NHS. A penny off the standard rate and an increase in the starting point for tax bands in line with average earnings are the concessions which would probably best please most taxpayers on 26 November.

Alternatively, a substantial widening of the 20p band would spread a small amount of jam even more widely by benefiting the lowest paid as well as basic-rate taxpayers. If you take the Prime Min-

priority for cutting income tax literally, however, the chances of the Chancellor abolishing inheritance tax and capital gains tax this month have diminished considerably.

Abolition would cost him £2.5bn in a full year and almost certainly leave the Chancellor with too little in hand to implement a cut in the standard rate of income tax as well.

It would also give a Labour Chancellor the opportunity to score political points by reinstating both taxes after the next election.

The Chancellor could, howwer, simplify CGT by rebasing the indexation allowance. At present, any realised gains on assets which were owned before 1982 are calculated on their value in 1982 and all taxable gains since then are diluted in line with the retail price index.

But it becomes increasingly difficult as time goes by to put a 1982 value on assets other than quoted stocks and shares which have been held for 14

ears or more. There is also a case for taxng long-term gains less heavly than short-term gains, if Brown, who would almost cerainly introduce a two-level quite possible. ax next year. Either way, howver, it makes little sense for

t does not look as if the investors to establish a tavable gain, or give away assets to minimise inheritance tax before the Budget.

Mr Clarke could please tary, Stephen Dorrell, has investors by increasing the amounts which can be invested each year in tax-free Tessas and PEPs, especially if CGT connnues.

A move to merge the

allowances for single-company PEPs and ordinary PEPs is also quite likely. If he wants to be maginative, he may try to consolidate the annual amount which can be invested tax-free in Tessas, Peps and pension funds combined on the grounds that few people can afford to put the maximum available into all three pots, ister's recent remarks about and the current rules on tax relief for pension contributions are forbiddingly complicated, But immediate changes in mid financial year are

> The housing market is hoping the Chancellor will not further reduce the tax relief on mortgage interest payments, and that he will raise the starting point for stamp duty to exempt more house purchases altogether.

Employees in profit-related pay and company share option schemes are also hoping the Chancellor will reaffirm his support rather than clamp down on over-generous schemes, and venture capital trust promoters are hoping for concessions.

Some taxes seem certain to rise. A controversial 1 per cent increase in VAT would damp down spending and pay for bigger cuts elsewhere.

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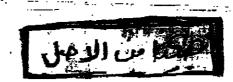
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Road test Mini Cooper he Mini deserves to be voted Car of the Century. As the precursor to all

means most), it has a stronger claim to the title than big sellers such as the Model T Ford and VW Beetle. It was launched 37 years ago as BMC's answer to the bubble car, and is still alive and bouncing, though dwindling in numbers. Just 20,000 were sold in 1995,

cars with a transverse engine

and front-wheel drive (which

against a peak of 318,000 in 1971. Introduced in 1959 as cheap wheels for the impecunious, the Mini has evolved in its twilight years as a retro funster for the wellheeled. The Japanese are its most ardent fans. Confirmation that there's

life yet in Britain's best loved car comes with a package of changes to see the Mini through to the next century. Cheap Minis are no more. At £9,000 before extras, Rover's latest models are too expensive to compete with utilitarian runabouts such as the Citroen AX (£6,350), Fiat Cinquecento (£6,132), Kia Pride (£5,489) or Suzuki Swift (£6,720). Even Ford's new Ka costs much less.

Rover now sees its minuscule cube as a living link with the Sixties and a trendy means of selfexpression. According to the blurb, customers can choose from a wide range of options to reflect their personality. If the purity of the original has been lost through embellishment, rest assured

that its character has not. Rover has resisted any temptation to do a face-lift on a design icon. Nor has it done anything about the car's atrociously jerky ride (the product of rubber-cone springs), or the uncomfortable knees-up driving position, justified by Issigonis with the immortal

observation: "You need to be uncomfortable to be alert." Accept these deficiencies and the Mini is still great fun. The Mini Cooper no longer has more power and zest than the ordinary Mini. more's the pity. Both versions have the same old raucous engine, dressed with modern

electronics to raise torque and meet emission regulations. There's still no five-speed gearbox, but fourth (top) has been raised to cut



noise, fuss and consumption. Racing through the lower gears, acceleration is quite nippy. It's not straight-line speed that makes the Mini quick from A to B, though, so much as incisive steering. no-roll cornering and terrific agility. No rival scuttles along twisty roads - or nips through urban traffic - with greater alacrity. Ironically, the £795 go-faster sports pack blunts top speed - a modest 84mph for the white-roofed, bonnetstriped Cooper. But what's lost on the straights, through the extra drag of wide-tyred wheels, is regained on the

roundabouts. Dip into the options list, which includes "classic" leather (£500) and pearlescent paint (£265), and the humble Mini will set you back more than £10,000. Worth the money? Consider these three cheaper fun-car alternatives.

Fiat Cinquecento Sporting, £7,054 Cute and budgetpriced funster of the Latin Perpendicular school. The engine is buzzy but eager, the gear change nasty. Zest like a Mini, but more economical. Handles with spirit on grippy tyres. Well equipped.

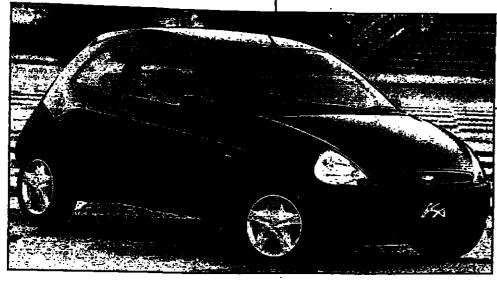
Ford Ka. £8.195 Trendy looks date the Mini's. Sluggish performance but the old 1.3 engine is quiet and refined. Handles brilliantly, rides smoothly, grips well. Much roomier and more comfortable than the Mini.

itroen Saxo 1.4VSX £9.390 Not such a character as the Mini but otherwise superior, being faster, comfier and more civilised. Keenly priced hatch with nippy performance, excellent handling, ample room and practical layout.

Roger Bell

Small and perfectly formed





Above. Peter Sellers and the Mini. both icons of the Sixties. Left. the latest

Little cars are back in a big way. By Gavin Green

mall cars aren't small any From the car makers' perspective, more. They're getting bigger, a happy corollary of cars getting bigfatter and more expensive. ger is that they also get more expen-The latest VW Polo, the sive. The car industry has always smallest car made by Europe's subscribed to the misguided notion biggest car maker, is as big and that a bigger car appeals to a wealthheavy as the first Golf - traditionier clientele than a small car, and ally one class up. An Escort is now therefore should cost more. And so, the size of an early Cortina. now that every other small car Back in 1959, the Mini invented the model has gone to fat, the Mini once modern small car. It was 10ft long, again stands supreme as the leanest, could accommodate four at a pinch most brilliantly designed, most space efficient car on the road. Only the and two in comfort, and had enough

luggage space for a big family shop Polish-built Fiat Cinquecento or a short family vacation. It became threatens its tiny-tot primacy. a big sales success, if - owing to the financial stupidity of BMC and lat-But competition is about to hot up. In an extraordinary volte-face, terly British Leyland - never a comthe car industry is about to redismercial hit. And the world copied it. cover the multifarious charms of the Escorts, people will buy a Ka But these copies were succeeded small car. They are starting to think because they really want one. And by higger, heavier cars. The motor small because, as traffic gets worse, you can see why: it's stylish, smart, industry's excuse was that they had more of their customers are starting to be heavier to meet new safety regto do the same. Equally as the twoulations - as though the collective ular, so there is room for a city/run-about/commuting/shopping car in brainpower of the car industry was incapable of paring weight from other areas, while still offering the fleet. And, as fuel prices start to airbags, side intrusion beams, crum-Europe if not in ecologically illiterple zones etc. (Another even more feeble excuse I've heard when chal-

ting bigger, so cars must follow.)

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ate America - so small cars and their lenging the growing obesity of all smaller fuel bills make sense. modern cars, is that people are get-

As with the Mini - which has never been particularly inexpensive - they will be bought because of their desirability. Unlike most current "small" cars, which are just downscaled and less competent versions of bigger machines, these new cars are distinctive, stand-alone products. They will look special, be classless (one of the Mini's greatest attractions), be fun to drive and put a smile back on the face of motorists who have become increasingly disillusioned

with the dull heavyweights.
First up is the Ford Ka, darling of the recent British Motor Show. Unlike the Fiesta, which is mostly bought by people who can't afford cute, fun to drive and fairly cheap. The Escort is none of these things or three-car family gets more pop- The Ka is also well equipped, another novelty for a small car. In the past, car makers had a predictably cynical view of small car cusrise above inflation - likely in tomers. Because they didn't have much to spend, they were offered few luxuries. If you wanted air conditioning, power steering, electric

spend, so you would obviously want a car with extra inches to drive. It was a cock-eyed logic, but it was the motor industry's excuse all the same. This is now changing.

The next intriguing small car comes from Mercedes-Benz, better known for limos than for lightweights. The new A-class is previewed at next spring's Geneva Show and will go on sale in Britain in early 1998. It will almost certainly be the cleverest car of the year, possibly of the decade. An ingenious twin floorplan will sandwich the engine and gearbox under the body and enable almost the whole length of the car to be devoted to passengers. Thus, finally, the Mini's space efficiency - unchallenged for 37 years - may be beaten. The A-class will marry Fiesta length with Mondeo carrying capacity, and will cost

from about £14,000 - Golf money. Smaller and cheaper, and also from the Mercedes stable, is the new Smart Car. It, too, is slated for 1998. A two-seater co-developed by Swatch, the watch people, the Smart Car is only eight feet long and will be marketed as an environmentally

Volkswagen and Vauxhall will also launch interesting small cars in the next few years, coming in under their Polo and Corsa models. Fiat, the most committed of all

makers to the art of the small car, replaces its Cinquecento in just over a year with a new model to be called the Seicento. It's a more stylish, more distinctive update of the current Cinquecento. Later, in the year 2000, Audi is

scheduled to launch its new A2, an aluminium-bodied lightweight hitech, high-spec hatchback, said to be good for 95mpg. The most eagerly awaited small car of all, though, is the new Mini, slated for 2001 or 2002. Hurried along by BMW, but designed by

Rover in Britain, the new Mini uses a South American-built 1.4-litre four-cylinder motor co-developed by BMW. It will not be cheap prices will start from about £9,000 in today's money. As with the Ka and the current (but recently upgraded) Mini, the new Mini will be bought not because of its low price but because of its style, dis-These new small cars will not be windows, central locking etc, then friendly, urban get-about. The tinctiveness and its con bought because of their cheapness. you clearly had extra pounds to French built baby will cost in the approach to transport. tinctiveness and its common-sense

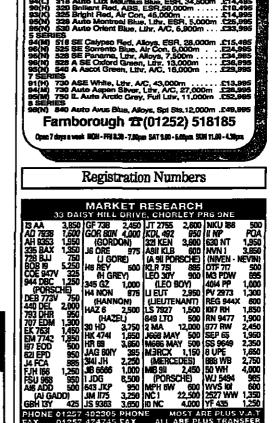
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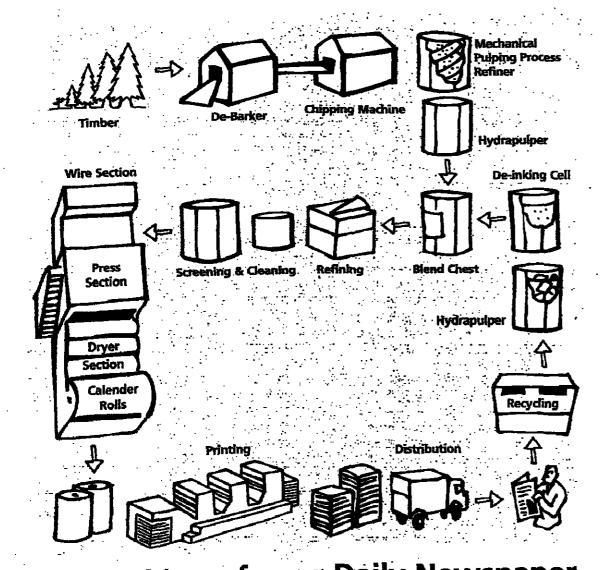


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Presents from ancient history

The Museum Company offers gifts inspired by exhibits in glass cases

one are the days when Christmas shopping meant an endless traipse of the streets in search of inspiration. The burgeoning trend for mail order shopping means that you can now relax in a comfy armchair, safe in the knowledge that your presents are just a phone call away. Museums have been quick to jump on the bandwagon and their catalogues offer a surprisingly large range of merchandise. Quite apart from the obvious advantages of shopping by telephone, these catalogues are a good way of supporting national

The Bodleian This is an example of how a little flair and imagination can result in an interesting and unusual

collection of well designed, covetable gifts. Clearly a great deal of thought has gone into creating the catalogue and a large proportion of the gifts take their cue from works of art owned by the Bodleian: Cats Post-It Notes has a procession of cats taken from a 13thcentury English bestiary printed on each page (£2.99); and a delightful set of three colouring books for children contains images lifted from the Library's medieval manuscripts (£3.75 for the set). The Bodleian building itself is also a rich source of inspiration – a range of fantastical silver jewellery includes a brooch featuring the Bodleian Beast, which was taken from a stone carving in the Old Bodleian Library. The catalogue is divided up into six sections - "Town and Gown", Indoors, Outdoors, Works of Art, The Middle Ages, Fun and Games, and Reading and Writing. There are plenty of ideas for those of a literary bent, as one would expect: the sturdy oak "Bodleian Bookrest" as long used in the reading rooms of the Bodleian Library (£75), or the Bookworm Game, a novel memory game which uses stories and illustrations from more than 100

The Bodleian Shop in the Old Library is open Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, (9am-5pm, Jan-March) and Sat 9am-

children's books in the Library.



Buying presents for people you don't know very well but want to please, amuse, thank or impress can be a dismal shopping experience, on a par with trying to find a gift for the man or woman who has everything (not anyone I know, but you might). Suddenly everything in the shops looks samey and dull, and you find you've left your inspiration at home with your comfortable shoes. In which case you won't have considered a tippling stick, a polemoscope or Edvard Munch's The Scream, printed on a tie.

Such rarefied novelties are the very stuff of the

Museum Company, an American venture which copies historic items, mainly from the world's museums, and sells them in its 70 stores in the States, nine outlets in Japan and, since last year, two shops in this

All the items sold by the Museum Company are accompanied by history cards, which is just as well, as I would not have recognised the tippling stick if it had jumped up and hit me on the nose. Now I know that the prototype is said to have been invented for Edward, Prince of Wales, whose and gambling. So Edward commissioned a walking stick with a whisky vial hidden inside. The tippling stick that the Museum Company sells is copied from one in a private collection. It unscrews into three parts for travelling and includes a compass in the head (presumably so that after drinking the contents of the vial, you still know

It will be interesting to see whether the Museum Company does as well in Europe as it has in America.

"Americans are more in awe of history than we are. Our gargoyles, for instance, sell like hot cakes in the States but not so well here." We are more practical it seems, going for stainless steel and brass business card hold-

The stock varies from the artily sublime (early-19th-century Italian filigree frames, for £20.95 and £23.95) to the joyfully ridiculous (a Venus de Milo mouse pad for your computer, for £16.50). In other words, there is something for everyone - especially those difficult types who seem to have everything. The company does not offer mail order but will gift-wrap purchases and carry them to the car (a bit of living

"We keep a list of things that people ask for, for future consideration, and send feedback to the States where all our buying is done," Ms Denton explains. Although most items are bought in, from museums or manufacturers, some are exclusive to the company. And it produces its own sculptures, such as the resin Hebe (price £59) adapted from the original by the Danish artist Bertel Alberto Thorwaldsen, and the alvamother, Queen Victoria, disapproved of his drinking stone Aphrodite (£149) from the Melos original in the

One of the company's best-sellers, Rodin's The Kiss, also in alvastone, comes in two portable sizes, priced at £49 and £169; and you can have Michelangelo's Pietà on the mantelpiece for £149.

Although many items could be classed as executive toys, the store does a nice line in educational kits ostensibly for children, but I can think of several adults who would enjoy constructing Galileo's telescope, the world's first thermometer or a Roman water clock. Sets As Lucy Denton, the Brent Cross manager, points out, in the Scientific Explorer series cost £21.95.

Also likely to invite nostalgia are Tiffany lamps (£309-£349), but classical designs reign supreme. A large selection of items from Tutankhamun's tomb includes a gold-leafed funerary mask at £399, though easier to live with is the stunning range of Roman glassware and jewellery, copies of those found on an archaeological dig in Israel. These elegant reproductions are made using the same glass-blowing process that was used by the ancients.

Timeless, too, is Greek sycamore-leaf jewellery in ewter, gold and garnet (necklace £69, earriags £28.95, from originals in the Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery). And the utterly romantic early-15th-century ring inscribed Vous et Nul Autre (you and no other), copied from the V&A in 9ct gold

Another faithfully-copied ring can be seen in a painting of St Catherine by the Venetian artist Lorenzo Lotto in the National Gallery of Art, Washington. Reproduced in 9ct gold and iolite, it costs £87.50.

Also look for Russian porcelain boxes with miniature paintings on lacquer, Italian milleflori perfume botties, and the contents of the scientific case, especially if you are planning on buying a present for a man.

As for the polemoscope, otherwise known as "the Private Eye", this is an 18th-century opera glass which gives a right-angled view, while the owner looked as if ne or she were intent on the stage, they could spy on the theatre box next door. Just the thing to give the boss or her husband.

The Museum Company can be contacted on 0181-202 7774

Jenny McClean

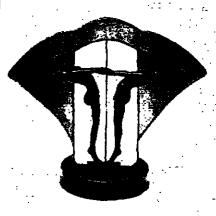
dark (£16.95 a pair), and zoom binoculars, which enable magnification from 8x to a powerful 27x, guaranteed for 10 years (£99). For the businessman or woman, you may like to seek out a pocket-sized electronic Travelator which combines a clock for home and foreign time, a calendar, a dual alarm, a calculator, a currency converter and a special "Fund Management System", which keeps a daily record of expenditure (£24.95).

The Royal Academy of Arts A lively, upbeat, forward-looking catalogue with a useful section devoted to artists' materials including an excellent beech-wood table easel perfect for recreational painters without access to a studio. Many of the items, mugs, ties and mats are commissioned exclusively from Royal Academicians such as Geoffrey Clarke, Norman Ackroyd, Elizabeth Blackadder and Frederick Gore. Particularly exuberant

and colourful is the range of products by Terry Frost RA, whose designs include "Raindrops", an umbrella that opens to reveal a witty design of blue, yellow and red raindrops; "Affections" a watch decorated with jolly, coloured hearts, which was inspired by "This is Love", a poem by Frederico Garcia Lorca. The forthcoming George Braque exhibition is a rich source of inspiration for a whole host of items; particularly striking are a deck chair and beach towel inspired by Braque's hallmark flying birds.

The Royal Academy, RA Enterprises, Harrington Dock, Liverpool 170 1AX 0151-708 0555

The Victoria and Albert Museum Flipping through the V&A's Treesury Catalogue" one could easily be forgiven for thinking it was Past Times' latest offering. Past Times is a phenomenally successful enterprise selling historically inspired ... merchandise, but hardly a role model for the V&A, surely one of the world's atest museums of decorative art. and design. Silk satin pyjamas, a cheap rendition of an Art Dece opalescent lamp, page after page of objects inspired by William Morris... it is depressing stuff. Furthermore, it is irritating to discover that all outside firm is responsible for the catalogue. Surely it should be orchestrated inhouse? The V&A would do well to consider Sir Terence Conran's famous dictum: "Functional can be beautiful, and beautiful must be affordable."



The Victoria & Albert Museum, South Kensington, London SW7. Orders, 0990-647484; Query line, 01793-

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Bodleian Library Marketing & Publishing Division, Broad Street. Oxford (01865 277091). The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

12.30pm. For details contact The

A quick flick through the "Holiday 96" catalogue confirms the Met's legendary reputation. Every single object for sale - from humble glass beakers to elaborate pieces of iewellery - is in what we have come to regard as unquestionable good taste, of an extremely high quality and, furthermore, sold at competitive orices. Don't be deterred by the fact that the Met is 3,500 miles from England. It is relatively easy to order items over the telephone provided one has a credit card to hand. Americans go the whole hog when it comes to Christmas decorations, and the Met offers an exciting range of Christmas tree ornaments including a 24ct gold electroplated, 3-D holly leaf ornament taken from a Gothic design in Floriated Omament, and a book by Pugin, (\$28). Equally good-looking are the hand-blown and hand-painted

European blownglass vessels in the Museum's Robert Lehman collection (\$16.50 each). The huge range of gifts ensures that there is something for every taste, from the funky frosted glass Monkey glasses. based on a design by Joseph Hoffman (\$48 for a set of eight), to what has become a design classic, the "Venus Earrings"

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10028. NB: The last mailing date for merchandise to reach the UK to arrive in time for Christmas is 25 November. The special customer service number for orders coming from outside the US is 00-1 718 326 7050, between 9am and 4pm Eastern Standard Time.

taken from earrings in a painting by

Peter Paul Rubens (\$48 a pair).

The Science Museum is brimming over with a confusing mix of imaginative brainteasers, science fiction toys, electronic gadgets surprisingly mundane practics items, such as a Multiway Plug, which can wire up to four appliances into one unit (up

to a maximum total of 13 amps, £12.95), or a zinc-coated instant fire escape, available in two sizes (£75 or £110) - hardly inspiring gifts for Christmas! Lurking amongst the plethora of products are a few items that are worth seeking out. These include a motorised orrery, ideal for any child showing astronomical leanings (£14.95). It comes with an 18-minute cassette by the astronomer Patrick Moore. The museum also sells witty children's pyjamas printed with life-sized skeletons which glow in the

The Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London, SW7. For details of the catalogue, call 01793 480666.

480666.



good thing



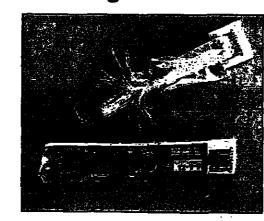
New Covent Company's Book of Soups, £12.99

The Covent Garden Soup Company has decided to share the secrets of its success - the recipes. This lovely ring-bound collection of "new, old and odd recipes" kicks-off

with a page devoted to tricks of the trade; then they've chucked in a generous selection of the weird and wonderful ideas the public have sent them, such as Mrs Antoniades' New England Carrot, Apricot and Sesame Soup. Each recipe comes with notes on provenance and serving suggestions. The soups are divided into are ten chapters, with titles like Wonderful, Reviving, Seasonal and Sweet.

Available from good bookshops

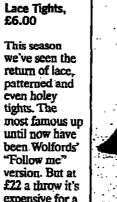
mad thing



Dairy processing power has taken another unnatural turn with these tubes of medium fat hard cheese. Pinch a bit at one end and peel it back and before you know it you'll have a catscradle of stringy bits of cheese on your hands. Also available in pizza flavour.

Contact your local supermarket.

sure thing



expensive for a trend that may only last a

season. Good old M&S have taken Wolfords at their word and produced a version of their own. They look great, keep their shape, and are available in black, chocolate and aubergine, and at £6 you can afford a pair in each colour.

Available from Marks and Spencer stores nationwide, enquiries 0171-935 4422.

Give us yesterday's daily bread

here's no doubt about it. Retro is the rage. As designers the world over run out of ideas, their "back to the future" policy is ensuring that their nests are feathered for at least another

One has to feel sorry for the creature called the contemporary designer. It has all been done before and better, too. So, how could they dare to compete with the unique spirit and verve which typified, say, the 1960s.

So, the stealing goes on - a bit from Cardin, a snip from Courreges and a slice of Rabanne. Mix with a dash of Halston and a pinch of Fiorucci et woila - very 1990s and very, very old hat. How much more refreshing to buy the genuine article. But second-hand shops are often traps for. moths and dust and charity shops, though becoming more clued up (certainly where prices are con-

cerned), are still way be-

hind in their conscious marketing.

Enter Yesterday's Bread. a rather unique concept in buying a chunk of the past. Deirdra Crowley and Bill Delmonte began collecting old clothes in the mid-80s and simply stored them.
One of their first consignments was a huge quantity of white lace-up glace kinky boots. They had an eye for things which they felt would become fashionable once again. Diligently they worked

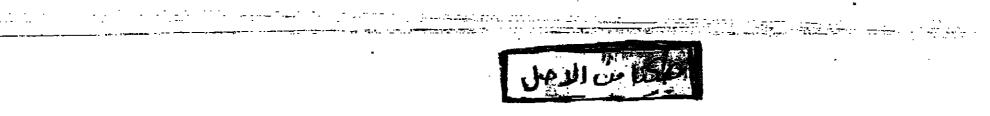
away combing forgotten warehouses and closed down shops full of Sixties and Seventies garb in ridiculous colours which are now so fashionable again. But what really makes their shop stand out is the sheer volume of stock. Where other second hand stores deal in ones and twos, Yesterday's Bread will have several examples of the same or similar garment, in a variety of sizes. The added attraction is that most of the stock is brand-new - some

still in its original wrap-ping and as fresh and funky as it was in 1966 or 1976. Butterfly-bright Bet-

ty Boop mini dresses are printed with wild psyche-delic patterns. Ultrabright printed cotton shirts are fashionably undersized to stretch over grapefruit breasts or trim pecs. Spanking brand new flower power ties mix happily with Lord Byronic style shirt collars - all synthetic, naturally (and now, fashionably).

Like so many second-hand or retro shops. Yes-terday's Bread is flocked to by the designers' flunkies buying up every-thing they can to copy and remarket as original pieces. Don't wait for them to do it. Get there

Yesterday's Bread is at 29 Fouberts Place, (off Carnaby Street), London W1. Tel 0171-287 1929. Prices from £20.



There has never been a finer range of imported pots to hold a beloved plant. By John Windsor

anish those ugly plastic plant pots Massive, reasonably priced traditional Far Eastern and African ceramic urns and storage jars are arriving in Britain by the container-load. They look both charming and confident. Some are in lushly glazed stoneware, some in earthy unglazed terracotta. Most are frost-proof - equally at home in the garden, or filled with tall plants indoors. Or as a planter for the Christmas tree.

The yard of Joss Graham's Oriental shop in west London is piled high with Vietnamese stoneware. Some of the Chinese-influenced designs date from the 14th century. So do the colours: turquoise blue, sage green, mustard yellow.

Huge, 2ft-wide red terracotta bowls with moulded lions' heads cost £75; a blueglazed, tulip-shaped "fish tank", nearly as big, £120; Smaller blue-glazed pots, 7in tall, 11in wide, £35. A few pots, 40-60 years old, have a glaze with mature, richer hues, a hint of what modern ones will look like when they outlive us. A 60-year-old glazed vase with blue dragons costs £245.

Mr Graham will plant a bamboo in her import business Trade and Care, have a unique, shiny black finish. These wide-shoulyour chosen pot, and prices start at £20. You could turn your living room into a ceiling-high jungle with bamboo - or the Minh City. palms and figs recommended by Trevor Sims, senior adviser of the Royal Horticultural Society. Fig trees, imported from Florida, are especially fast-growing, he says. Palms tend to grow more wide than tall. For best results, mimic a subtropical climate: avoid roasting them in direct sunlight, allowing them to press against freezing glazing, and over-

Even frost-proof garden pots will crack if allowed to fill with water that freezes then thaws. Some Vietnamese pots are made with drain holes, some are not. Put a drip saucer under all unglazed indoor pots, with or without holes - or water will seep through, ruining your carpet or pol-

ished floor.
Mr Graham's supplier, Vietnamese Bich Tyler, has ordered half-holes in next year's consignments, which can be left intact or knocked through. Those half-

which has funded schools in the Vietnamese potteries district north of Ho Chi

Ms Tyler returned from wartime exile to Vietnam as recently as 1990. In the early Nineties there were fears that the Vietnamese pottery industry might go the same way as the Malaysian, with families of potters in acrimonious price-cutting rivalry sparked by buyers from Western department stores seeking mass-produced wares as untraditional as a ceramic Miss Piggy. Ms Tyler says: "It took me three years to build up respect and trust'

Next year, Stephen Morgan, who teaches pottery at Bath College of Higher Education, will visit Ben Hoa with Ms Tyler to discuss new designs. "The easiest way to kill something is to let it stand still" he said. "But I'm very wary about being interventionist".

I chanced upon big African and Catalan pots at Juniper in Walthamstow. Matungi cooking pots from Kisumu. holes seem to epitomise the delicacy of East Kenya, fired in underground kilns,

were from Besmo of Wembley, which handles 5,000 pots a year.

Juniper's 24in-tall hand-thrown Catalan amphoras are on offer at £55. They Baba shape, are are frost-proof, but look good indoors hand-thrown in 8infilled with dried twigs. The importer is 9in sections and cost Catalan Classics of Abridge, Essex, which £581 each.

Town, north London, are wholesalers with a local retail trade that also offer a free nationwide list of 200 retail stockists of their 200-plus oriental

designs.
Ethnic pots are also appearing at garden centres and trade fairs, and occasionally crop up at auction. I paid £150 for a whopper at Criterion Auctions in Islington - a 3ft 3in-tall Vietnamese Ali Baba-type urn with mustard-coloured glaze and Chinese-style cantering horses moulded on the shoulder.

But the biggest imported pots are the monumental, 4ft-tall Moroccan pale 39-51 Highgate Road, NW5 (0171terracottas imported by Barbary Pots of 267 1689). Barbary Pots, 45 Fernshaw Chelsea. The Menara, a full-bodied, Road, SW10 (0171-352 1053).

shape, and the Soudania, an Ali

started only 18 months ago.

The importers Red Mud of Kentish Joss Graham, 10 Eccle-Street, N1 (0171-490 2493). Juniper, Central Parade, 3 Hoe Street. Walthamstow, E17 (0181-521 0562). Besmo, Unit 24, Woods Building, Fourth Way, Wembley, Middlesex (0181-903 0571). Catalan Classics, Patch Park Farm, Ongar Road, Abridge, Romford, Essex RM4 1AA (01708-688088). Red Mud, Linton House,

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Six of the best

As the temperature drops so coats become priority pieces of kit. Good kids coats are particularly hard to find and

expense is a key factor. So we've featured a selection to suit all budgets.

Although traditional duffle coats remain popular there's a new breed of anoraks,

parkas and fleeces which offer multi-

out sleeves, button off hoods and reversible linings. Colours are bright and playful, turning the once boring jacket into a fun piece of clothing. Wear

purpose use - with features such as zip

with patterned tights and neon wellies

Adwatch

Selling coals to Newcastle

Lenophobia rules in British advertising, it now seems. First, came Blackcurrant Tango with the TV ad in which a purple shorts-clad Tango marketing executive challenges the world from a boxing ring erected atop the White Cliffs of Dover. Now comes the return to TV of that Northern pub and student bar favourite: Newcastle Brown Ale.

Scottish Courses is speeding f4 million to freshen

Scottish Courage is spending £4 million to freshen the image of "Newcy Brown", with a TV and cinema campaign which features Howie, a Geordie returning home having travelled the world.

To celebrate his homecoming, Howie goes down the local with his mates and presents each with a gift from the exotic places he has been. Surprise, surprise the present is the same from Brazil, China, Australia, Russia and the US: a gift wrapped bottle of Tyneside's favourite ale. "Well, I didn't see anything else I thought

you'd like," our friend explains.

Talk about coals to Newcustle. Only the point here is that far from being a quaint local brew, Newcastle Brown is now an international success – worth more than £125 million in the UK alone and available in more than 40 other countries around the world

"We want to bring Newcastle Brown back to the fore-front of people's minds," Scottish Courage brand direc-tor Brian Sharp diplomatically reveals. "There is a huge resurgence in interest in premium ales - a market which was moribund for quite some time. Now, people are more eager to trade up: a trend we have already seen in lagers with the success of Becks and Stella Artois."

Brian Sharp believes drinkers are after less volume but the same, or more, alcohol content. "They want drinks that taste of something – a real flavour. And they want genuine and authentic brands. Newcastle Brown fits this bill," he adds: it has been brewed in the city for almost seventy years.

This has given the ale a certain credibility abroad - notably in the US where it is now one of the country's top 20 most successful beer brands - without any advertising at all: the cognoscenti have discovered its charms purely by word of mouth.

Back in the UK, the new campaign, created by advertising agency Collett Dickenson Pearce, marks the first TV advertising for Newcastle Brown in five years. The push also includes a national poster campaign (again with an international flavour. "Tyne and Every Wear Else" runs the line). And it coincides with a bottle label promotion and sponsorship of premiership league leaders Newcastle United.

With growing competition in the market, Newcastle Brown just can't afford to rest on its laurels. Although sales now top 250,000 barrels a year (around 72 million bottles) sales in the premium market as a whole are currently rising by around three per cent, year on year. If Scottish Courage can at least equal that, they'll certainly have something to drink to.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

Meg Carter

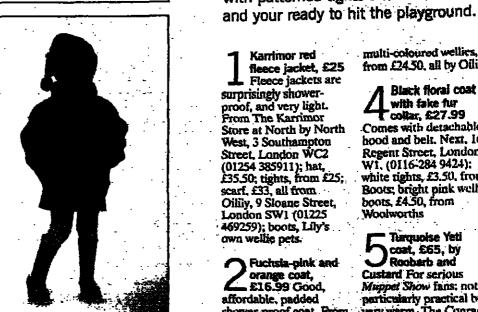












multi-coloured wellies, from £24.50, all by Oilily. Black floral coat

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Fleece jackets are surprisingly showerproof, and very light. From The Karrimor Comes with detachable Store at North by North hood and belt. Next, 160 West, 3 Southampton Regent Street, London W1, (0116-284 9424): Street, London WC2 (01254 385911); hat, £35,50; tights, from £25; scarf, £33, all from Oilily, 9 Sloane Street, London SW1 (01225 white rights, £3.50, from Boots, bright pink wellie boots, £4.50, from Woolworths 469259); boots, Lily's awn wellie pets. 5 Terquoise Yeti coat, £65, by Rooberb and

Fuchsia-pink and orange coat, _£16.99 Good, affordable, padded shower-proof coat. Prom Hennes, 261-271 Regent Street, London W1 (0171 255-2031); tights; from £25 and orange rucksack, £23.50, from Oilily: bright pink wellies and pink Barbie umbrella from Woolworths,

Red snow bears, £19.99 Cotton outer fabric means it's warm, but not for really wet weather. From Hennes; skirt, Lily's own; ights, from £25; tartan

Yellow coat, £145; tights, from £25, both by Ollily This coat is the most expensive of the bunch, but the quality is excellent. If you like to pass on clothes to friends and family, this one will last for years.

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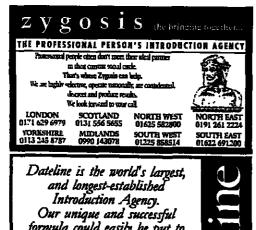
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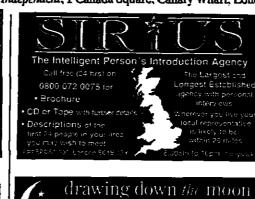
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When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or trusted friend know where you will be.

We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected by genuine respondents.

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riseta/London. Box No E1739.

Ital A WARSH HEARTED professional woman, 50, relocated S.London, missing friends/neighbours, and hoping to find a male companion to make the city copie silve. Lets explore together and make the days seem shorter. Box No E1738. INCONVENTIONAL CREATIVE I swarm easypoing attractive ele-loves music books the arts lood & wire. Seeks M southwate/lover. S.Yorks. Photo appr.Box No I-1705.

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Box No 1:1722.

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h1602.

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Photo please, Box No I:1742.

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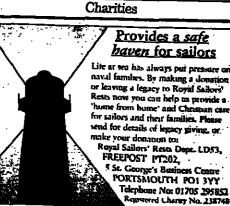
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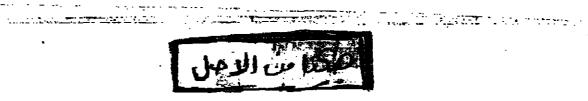


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7.30 The Flying Doctors (R) (S) (1260494). *
8.15 Twenty Steps to Better Management (3579369).
8.30 Breakfast with Frost (49727).

8.30 Breaktast with Frost (49727).
9.30 The Big Question. Mark Lawson and David Puttnam on the meaning of life, etc. (4734433).
9.45 First Light (S) (415307).
10.15 See Heart Ponders the new Disability Discrimination Act (S) (407388).
10.45 Deutsch Plus (S) (3709659).*
11.00 The Flavorith Heart (S) (32663).

11.00 The Eleventh Hour (S) (32663). 12.00 CountryFile (S) (81497). 12.30 On the Record (Including News) (19833). *
1.30 EastEnders Omnibus (R) (S) (5101630). *
2.55 Children in Need – the Encore (S) (7565543). *
3.15 Cartoon (281272).

3.15 Cartoon (2817272)
3.30 Biteback. Viewers take issue (6735765).
4.10 The Bookworm. Tours the late John Betjeman's Comish haunt and chats to author Terry McMillan. Plus, a pick of the gardening books (5719017). *
4.40 The Clothes Show (1880456). *
5.05 Lifetine. Gavin Campbell appeals on behalf of Sight Savers International (S) (6337524). *
5.15 The Prince and the Pauper. 2/6. Continuing the Mark Twain adaptation, Torn Canty is unable to convince anyone of his true Identity (S) (295630).
5.45 News, Weather (879340). *
5.55 Regional News (899104).

5.55 Regional News (899104).

5.55 Regional News (6391/04).
6.10 Songs of Praise. Sir Harry Secombe and churns celebrate 50 years in showbiz (S) (574272). *
6.45 Last of the Summer Wine (R) (S) (285253). * 7.15 Antiques Roadshow. Valuations from Chepstow in Gwent (245271). *

8.00 Ruby Wax Meets the Duchess of York. See Preview, p30 (S) (6036). *
8.30 The Tenant of Wildfell Hall. 1/2. See Preview, P30 (Continued after the News) (S) (307678). *
9.25 News, Weather (798475). *

9.40 The Tenant of Wildfell Hall 2/3 (307678).

9.40 The Tenant of Wildfell Hall 2/3 (307678).

10.35 Clive Anderson All Talk (S) (978630).

11.10 Everyman: Abomination. A report on the controversy surrounding the landmark service at Southwark Cathedral marking 20 years of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement (951123). 11.50 Accused. More dramatised cases from the

magistrates' court. Carol is accused of throwing boiling water over an ex-boyfrlend (S) (657982). 12.20 Wildflower (Diane Keaton 1991 US). in rural Georgia, 1938, a partly-deaf, epileptic girl (Patricia Arquette) is imprisoned by her stepfather, who thinks she is possessed by the Devil, in a filthy outhouse. She is discovered by a neighbour's children, who decide to secretly educate and nurture her. Beau Bridges and Susan Blakely co-star (S) (5303944). * 1.50 Weather (1124050). To 1.55am.

BBC2 7.30 Children's BBC: Joe 90. 7.55 Playdays. 8.15 Bitsa. 8.30 Jackanory Gold. 8.50 The Littlest Pet Shop. 9.15 The Itsy Bitsy Spider. 9.35 Mask.

10.00 Ship to Shore. 10.30 Grange Hill. 10.55 The Queen's Nose. 11.20 As Seen on TV. 11.45 Shooting Stars. Shown on Friday (S) (493185). * 12.15 The Sunday Show. Dorna McPhail hosts the Sunday brunch beano (S) (2633456).

1.00 The O Zone (S) (32681). 1.30 Regional Programmes (S) (25291).
2.00 Ice Skating, Highlights from this week's British Ice Skating championships in Gulkdford, Commentary by Barry Davies and Karen Barber (5657982).

2.50 Tennis. The final of the National championship from Telford. See The big match, p30 (74796185).

4.50 Rugby Spacial. Includes highlights of Leicester v Harlequins, Cardiff v Bath and Ulster v Australia (5889104). 5.50 Natural World. The Himalayes encompass

5.50 Natural word. The Humalayas encompass deserts, glaciers and forests and a correspondingly diverse wildlife. Here they are (Followed by Heading South, Weather) (\$) (256104). *
6.45 Star Trek: Voyager (\$) (813839). *
7.30 American Visions. Robert Hughes explores America's majestic landscape from the Hudson

river to the Rockies, finding out how it has influenced American artists (S) (67494). * 8.30 The Money Programme. How the French and Italian wine trades are being revolutionised by the boom in "New World" wines (S) (197388). *
9.10 Coogan's Run: Thursday Night Fever. The ited Steve Coogan turns himself into Mike

Crystal, an entertainer on the Northern club circuit whose career is going nowhere (R) (S) (600611). 9.40 Horizon. The first of a two-part investigation into why science was so ill-equipped to deal with BSE, or "mad cow disease", which was first detected in Britain 10 years ago (Followed by Video Nation Shorts) (S) (238104).*

10.35 The Crow Road 2/4. Second sitting lain Banks

adaptation (R) (S) (162982). * 11.35 The Cool and the Crazy (Ralph Bakshi 1993 US). Alicia Silverstone, whose career has gone stratospheric since the fabulous Clueless, plays a young woman bored with her safe

marriage and tempted by the local hoodlum (Then Weatherview) (307920). To 1.05am.

2.00 The Learning Zone: Nice Work (43505), 4.00
Languages: Sueños: World Spanish (50215).
5.00 Business and Work: The Small Business Programme (47321). To 6.00am.

REGIONS. Wales: 1.30pm Welsh Lobby. 5.00 Scrum 5. Scot: 1.30pm Scottish Lobby. NI: 1.30pm A

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV 6.00 The Sunday Review. 6.30 News, Sport and Weather. 7.00 The Sunday Programme (65253).

8.00 Dragon Flyz (99388). 8.30 Disney Club (S) (63683369). 10.15 Link (S) (1862765). *

10.30 Sunday Live. The Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement celebrates its 20th anniversary, and the former test cricket umpire, Dickie Bird, talks about retirement (S) (81433). 11.00 Morning Worship. From St Patrick's, Toxteth (S)

12.00 Sunday Live. Continued (S) (92475).

Sunday Live. Continued (S) (924/5).
 30 Crosstalk (Followed by LWT Weather) (20746).
 1.00 News and Weather (86493494). *
 1.10 Jonathan Dimbleby. Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell and his Labour counterpart, Chris Smith, on the future of the NHS (S) (1360630).
 2.00 War and Remembrance. D-Day (R) (986776).

Team and real statements. Delay (r/) [960/70]. See Coal Miner's Daughter (Michael Apted 1980 US). Sissy Spacek does her own singing in her Oscar-winning portrayal of rags-to-riches country & western star, Loretta Lynn. With Tommy Lee Jones as hubble Doolittle (80018104). 6.00 Dining Out. The fast-food revolution (S) (659).

6.30 Local News, Weather (375272). * 6.45 News and Weather (398123). * 7.00 One in a Million (S) (2456). * 7.30 Heartbeat. A routine domestic disturbance takes a sinister turn (S) (54920). *

frame Jeremy Beadle (S) (4681). * 9.00 London's Burning. Blue Watch helps a cyclist in a sticky situation, while newcorner Skip tries to talk down a suicidal girl (S) (2920). *

10.00 Sometime, Never. Zzzitcom (S) (93104). *

10.30 News and Weather (Followed by LWT Weather)

10.45 The South Bank Show, Jimmy McGovern profiled.

See Preview, p.30 (S) (510611). *
11.45 Theatreland. Emma Freud and Sheridan Morley review the latest first nights (S) (572291). 12.15 Miami Vice (3430215).

1.10 Coach (R) (S) (4245857). 1.45 IRM Bloody Mama (Roger Corman 1970 US). Tasteless but riotous post-Bonnie and Clyde celebration of the infamous 1930s bank robberyto-murder clan, the Baker family. Shelley Winters is the matriarchal Ma Barker, and look out for Robert De Niro as her druggy son (333166). 3.25 Not Fade Away. DJ Simon Bates and his favourite

pop/rock sounds (R) (S) (4141302). 4.30 Night Shift (R) (S) (60554166). 4.35 Flux (R) (S) (8867234).

Channel 4

6.20 Blitz! (5611456).

7.15 Ric (22494). 7.45 Biker Mice from Mars (4921814). 8.10 Earthworm Jim (4976185). 8.35 Street Sharks (6767272).

9.00 Insektors (S) (6165185). 9.20 Saved by the Bell (R) (1398920). * 9.45 Sister Sister (S) (408017).

10.15 Wise Up(S) (490098). 10.45 Hollyoaks Omnibus (S) (5652727). * 11.40 The Waltons (R) (2952746). * 12.40 Rookies. Includes an interview with football heart-throb, Jamie Redknapp (\$) (4027272).

1.10 Little Jack Little. Short from 1934 (65149299). 1.30 Racing from Cheltenham. Brough Scott
introduces the 1.40 Food Brokers-Gloystame
Handicap Chase, 2.15 Murphy's Novices'
Handicap Hurdle, 2.50 Sporting Index Chase and
the 3.25 Stakis Casinos November Novices'

Chase (91501307).

3.45 News Summary (7446901).

3.50 Football Italia Highlights (2429727).

4.50 INSECTION Feathers (Zoltan Korda 1939 UK).

A rare chance to see the Korda brothers' wonderful remake of AEW Mason's imperial yarn - with John Clements as the man accused of cowardice by his comrades and loved one (June Duprez), who redeems himself against the natives in Sudan. Also with Ralph Richardson and C Aubrey-Smith (86334678).

7.00 Equinox: Kaboom! The history of explosives, from the day a 13th-century monk recorded the formula for gunpowder in coded Latin - in an attempt to control its production - to when Alfred Nobel developed a safe way of producing nitroglycerine (R) (S) (1678). * 8.00 Travels with My Camera. See Preview, p30 (S)

9.00 The Real Auf Wiedersehen Pet. Repeat

Undercover Britain report about what it's really like to be one of the 60,000 or so British construction workers in Germany (R) (2291). *
9.30 EUES: The Deer Hunter (Michael Cimino 1978 US). See The big picture, p30 (\$) (1004562). *
12.50 Partners (\$) (3357050). *
1.20 Test Chronicle of a Death Foretold (Francesco

Rosi 1987 lt/Fr). A badly miscast Rupert Everett puts the chronic into this chronicle - Rosi's misfiring adaptation of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's tale of a Colombian girl rejected by her husband on their wedding night (S) (98901586). 3.25 The Lone Wolf Meets a Lady (Sidney

Salkow 1940 US). Warren William is the Lone

Wolf: Jean Muir is the lady - a socialite charged

with robbery and murder (9340215). To 4.35am.

ITV/Regions

Aug. In As Landon escape: 2.00pm Kick Off Livel (8520-45/18). 4.15 World of Whyder (5636/185). 4.40 Dr Ceinn, Medicine Woman (519110-4). 5.35 Love Chronicles (626/162). 6.05 Out to Lando with Brian Tumer (319456). 11.45 Pilms Marker (68841727). 1.55em The Loop (5327499). 2.25em Funnty Business (2928876). 2.55em cybecase (1322673). 3.25em The Chron (1379321). 4.25-4.35em Sound Stem (76207925).

Bites (76207925).
CRAMEEL 3 INDITIE ENSIGNERSHEE
As Landon excepts 12.30pm Channel 3 North East. Newspeeds
(#040123). Yorks: Godes on Santday (40-20123). 2.00 sharder: She World of Wester (7841123). 2.55 A World of Worlds
(#0505520.3.25 Co Wild in the Country - The Making of Wind
in the Williams (7761833). 3.45 Films: Agotha Christic's A
Caribbann Mystery (671611). 5.35 Channel 3 North East. Derossus (363104). Works: Carbon Time (120653). 5.40 Norks:
seeCaset 2002 (529562). 11.45 A Worman Norred Jackie
(#023611). 1.30am Films: Chandramuskii (208532)1. 4.30.
5.30am Jobilinder (42296).

Central.

As Landon except: 12.30pm Life Line (17596678). 12.35
Central Newsweek (1088727). 2.00 The Central Merch - Line
(68204618). 4.45 8's four Shout (291814). 4.45 fo Cunn,
Medicine Women (5190475). 5.40 Bulkeye (415663). 6.10
Our House (318727). 11.45 War and Remembrance
(682369). 4.35am Jobinder (9065741). 5.20-5.30am
Asan Eye (1254470).

NTV
As London except 12.25pm West: Strechwise (4858098)
Waltes: Peterson (4858098) 2.00 West: West March Plus
(88204618) Whites: Weth Agenda (1340) 2.30 Waltes: Permitten Deey (630). 3.00 Waltes: Emmerdate (6517651, 3.50
West: Dr. Charm, Medicine Woman (2430833), 4.15 WestseaGuest 2032 (496123). 4.45 Waltes: seaGuest 2032
(5190475). 5.00 West: Emmerdate (9595814): 5.40 WestSing Ort. (415663). Waltes: Shades of Geyn Thomas
(415663). 6.10 West: The Famous Five (318727): 11/14s
Cases: Roots (318727). 11.45 Place Market (123307).
1.35am Short Story Chema (1586925): 1.55am The Loop
(527499). 2.25am Fundy Busness (5278876): 2.55am cybecate (1322673). 3.25an The Crime How (1379321): 4.254.35am Sound Bits (76207925).

MERCHAI

As London except: 12.30pm 7 Days (1089456). 2.00 The
Merklam Markin – Live (49794562). 4.20 Dr Quern, MedLone Whoman (5942999). 5. 10 Inside Royally (7355833)
5.40 Antiques Trail (415663). 6.10 The Wilage (318727)
11.45 Filam: 81. Stryker – Plakes (122307). 1.35am Story Cineria (1366925). 1.55am The Loop (5327499).
2.25am Furtry Business (2928876). 2.55am cybe.cs/e
(1322673). 3.25am The Crame Hour (1379321). 4.254.35am Sound Bites (76207925).

4.33am Sound Bres (1/bc/u/3ca).
WESTCHMINT'
As Landon except: 12.25pm (TV Sport Classes (4858098).
2.00 Westcountry Update (57173524). 2.25 Time of My Life
(57176611). 2.35 Filme Dr No (74782982). 4.55 Curbon
(9819543). 5.10 Murde, She Wrote (4336253) 6.05 Sun,
Sea and Stifting (379456). 11.45 Filme Mahler (6684) 7.271.
1.55am The Loop (5327499). 2.25am Filmey Risiness
(2928876). 2.55am (obstatle (1322673). 3.25am Thro Crime
Hight (1379321). 4.25-4.35am Sound Bres (762079.25).

S4C Ascept: 6.20am Early Moming (46-483098). 11.40 The Gallery (6086307). 11.55 Round a Round (9525475). 12.30pm Tocyn Tymor (2413185). 1.35 Cerpan Rygbi Henselen Ewrop (3070743). 325 Racing from Chelsenbarn (7769475). 3.45 Fresh Pop (3594727). 4.00 Party of Five (3307). 5.00 News (7599982). 5.05 Momiliesh (738410-1). 5.35 Pobol y Curri (67758982). 7.30 Dechrau Canu, Dechrau Canud (765). 8.00 Twrto (1.35388). 8.55 Rcthyd Da (185543). 9.40 News (932982). 9.50 Film: Web of Deception (369920). 11.40 Leaving Horne (9) 8235). 12.40-1.20am Four-Mattons: Shorts (4424741).

Radio

Radio 1

7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 Dave Pearce 2.00 Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation 4.00 UK Top 40 7.00 Punk Fiction 8.00 John Peel 10.00 Stuart Maconie 12.00 Andy Kershaw 2.00 Claire Sturgess

Radio 2

7.00am Don Maclean 9.05 Steve Wright 11.00 Parkinson's Sunday Supplement 1.00 Desmond Car-Supplement 1.00 Deshibit Carrington 3.00 Benny Green 4.00 A
Year to Remember 4.30 Sing
Something Simple 5.00 Pam Ayres
7.00 Hugh Scutty 8.30 Sunday
Half Hour 9.00 Alan Keith 10.00
The David Jacobs Collection 11.00 Angelic Volces 12.05 Steve Mad-den 3.00-6.00am Alex Lester

(90,2-92 4個以下的 7.00am Sacred and Profane. 8.50 Choice of 3. 9.00 Brian Kay's Sunday Morning. 12.15 Music Matters. 1.00 The Liquid Companion. (1/6). 1.20 The Sunday Concert. BBC

Strauss: An Alpine Symphony. 2.15 Spirit of the Age.(2/2). 3.15 Brender's Beethoven. 5.15 The Sunday Feature: L'Arbre des Songes. Patrick O'Connor celebrates the 80th anniversary of the birth of French composer

5.00-6.00am Sequence.

Choir Works (7pm R3) is given over to the British premiere of William Bolcom's Songs of Innocence and of Experience – a massive and eclectic collection of Blake settings, 25 years in the making.

Choice

Serenade, Carter, String Quartet No 1. (92.4-94.6MHz FML 198MHz 198 6.00am News Briefing. 6.10 Something Understood. 7.00 Choir Works. Live from the Royal Festival Hall, London, In-

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.10 Sunday Papers. William Bolcom: Songs of Innocence and of Experience. Nan Christie, Linda Hohenfeld and 7.15 The Living World. 7.40 Sunday. 8.50 The Week's Good Cause. Christine Brewer (sopranos), Sarah Walker and Joan Morris (mezzos), Andre de Shields (rock singer), Swingle Singers, New London Children's Choir, BBC 8.50 The Week's Good Cat 8.55 Weather. 9.00 News. 9.10 Sunday Papers. 9.15 Letter from America. 9.30 Morning Service.

Symphony Chorus and Orchestra/Leonard Slatkin, Part 1. (8.00-8.20 The Blake Followers.) Part 2. See Choice, above. 10.00 Drama Now. Nomen. A sequel to the myth of Odysseus by David Calcutt, with Alun Arm-10.15 The Archers. 11.45 New Latinos, Clare Hampson meets a British woman liv-ing har dream life in the fantasy

city of Ric. (3/6).

12.15 Desert Island Discs. With athlete Tessa Sanderson.

12.55 Weather.

1.00 The World This Weekend. strong and Lana Headey.

11.30 Three Pubs in Miltown Malby. 12.00 Record Review.
1.15 Through the Night.
1.16 Handel, Flavio, Ensemble
415/Rene Jacobs. 1.55 Shipping Forecast.
 2.00 Gardeners' Question Time.
 2.30 Classic Serial: Women in
 Love. By DH Lawrence. (4/4). 4.00 Marie-Claire Alain (organ). Sach: Clavier-Ubung III.

4.15 Analysis.
5.00 News; Walston Goes Walkabout.
5.30 Poetry Please!
5.50 Shipping Forecast.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 Feedback. 6.30 in Business. 7.00 Children's BBC Redio 4: Into the Dark. By Nicholas Wilde. With Sue Johnston. (2/3).

-7.30 Booked! -8.00 (FM) The Natural Histo

gramme. 8.00 (LW) Open University: Deutsch Plus. 8.30 Suenos – World Spanich 1. 9.00 Suenos - World 9.45 Voyage dars les archives.
8.30 (FM) A History of Reading in Five Volumes. (4/5).
9.00 (FM) The Board Game.
9.30 (FM) Costing the Earth.

10.00 News. 10.15 Medicine Now. Barbara Myers looks back at 50 years of

medical photography. 10.45 Breakaway. 11.15 In Committee. 11.45 Seeds of Faith. (3/3). 12.00 News. 12.20 Bells on Sunday. 12.30 The Late Story: Snake Skir Becomes Her. By Jo Hughes. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00-6.00am As World Service.

Radio 5 (223, 909kit) MR9 6.05am Brief Lives 6.30 Brian

with Mair 11.35 Special Assignment 12.05 The Big Byte 12.30 Crime Desk 12.55 Steve Cram's Sunday Sport 6.05 Sportscall 7.00 News-Extra 7.35 You Cannot Be Serious 8.35 Sex Lives 9.00 Dallyn Worldwide 10.05 The Acid Test 10.35 Out This Week 11.00 Night Extra 11.35 SportsAmerica 12.05 Night Moves 2.05 Up All Night 5.00-6.00am Morning Reports

0.000.0-101.9MHz PM

6.00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Classic Romance 12.00 Celebrity Choice 1.00 Alan Mann 3.00 Masterciass 4.00 Mei Cooper 6.00 A Question of Classics 7.00 Countdown Top 10 8.00 World Opera. Offenbach: The Tales of Hoffmann. 10.30 Howard's Week 12.00 Andre Leon 4.00-6.00am Mark Griffiths

(1215, 1197-1260kib MW 105.8Mib RA) 6.00am Janey Lee Grace 10.00 Graharn Dene 2.00 Nicky Home 6.00 Lynn Parsons 10.00 Gary Davies 2.00-6.00am Randall Lee Rose

1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Short

Story Special 1.45 On the Move 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Anything Goes 3.00 News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 A Green History of the Planet 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Country Style 5.00 Newsday 5.30-6.00am Europe Today

Satellite

6.00am Hour of Power (29727). 7.00 My Little Pony (9181456). 7.25 Dynamo Duck (3095291). 7.30 Delfy and His Friends (73949). 8.00 Orson and Olivia (40036). 8.30 Free Willy (49307). 9.00 Geraldo (45253). 10.00 Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (62833). 11.00 Parker Lewis Can't Lose (61543). 11.30 Real TV (62272). 12.00 World Wrestling Federation (50901). 1.00 Star Trek (76949). 2.00 Mysterious Island (47036), 3.00 The terious island (47036), 3.00 The Boys of Twilight (73388), 4.00 Great Escapes (9017), 4.30 Real TV (8901), 5.00 Kung Fu, the Legend Continues (2475), 6.00 The Simp-Commuss (2475), 6.00 The Simpsons (9494), 6.30 The Simpsons (5366), 7.00 Beverly Hills 90210 (97456), 8.00 The X Files Re-Opened (59384), 9.00 Steven King's the Tommyknockers (12331) 11.00 Manhunter (63562). 12.00

Mix Long Play (68741).

7.00pm Xena: Warrior Princess (3149663). 8.00 Metrose Place (7844271). 9.00 Profit (3444415). 10.00 Pollergaist: The Legacy (4599104), 11.00 Seinfeld (1067920), 11.30 Who Do You Do? (3693618), 12.00 The Son of Monte Cristo (1940) (8799128). 2.00-5.00am Hit Mix Long Play (7744079).

Wars (30470), 2.00-7.00am Hit

6.00am The Only Game in Town (1969) (18369). 8.00 The Magnifi-cent Showman (1964) (57238630).

10.20 Rough Diamonds (1994) (7766272). 11.50 Gypsy (1993) (90726340). 2.10 The Magic of the Golden Bear (1995) (645036). 4.00 Little Big League (1994) (7307). 6.00 Mrs Doubtfire (1993) (90543). 8.00 Terminal Velocity (1994) (59348). 10.00 Fatherland (1994) (904678). 11.50 Beyond Bedlam (1994) (938814). 1.20 Gimme an F (1984) (780925). 3.00 Polica Rescue (1994) (89418). 4.30-6.00am Son of the Pink Panther (1993) (95321). MOVE CHARREL

6.00am it's Great to Be Young! (1956) (18551). 8.00 Treasure Island (1974) (29630). 10.00 Telewar: Tek Justice (1994) (40524), 12.00 Midnight Run for Your Life (1994) (19253), 2.00 What's Eating Gilbert Grape? (1994) (18949), 4.00 Trapped in Paradise (1994) (5949). 6.00 Young Indiana Jones and the Attack of the Hawkmen (1995) (98185). 8.00 What's Eating Gilbert Grape? (1994) (93630). 10.00 Parallel Lives (1994) (995920). 11.50 The Movie Show (226036), 12.20 The Glass Shield (1993) (758505). 2.10 Jimmy Hollywood (1994) (929673). 4.00-6.00am The Disap pearance of Vonnie (1994) (75031).

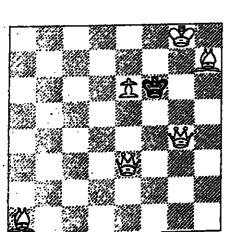
ZKY MOMEZ GOTD

11.00am A Farewell to Arms (1957) (1052727). 2.00 Clue (1985) (2476104). 4.00 National Velvet (1944) (26259456), 6.05 Blood-hounds of Broadway (1989) (42239253), 8.00 The Prince and the Pauper (1978) (2468185).

10.00 Star Trek V: The Final Frontier (1989) (7931630). 11.50 Spacehunter: Adventures in the Forbidden Zone (1983) (4276123). 1.25 Rasputin: The Mad Monk (1966) (9169673). 3.00-4.30am Tom, Dick and Harry (1941) (4683302). SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Ice Hockey (145949). 9.30 Surfing (57630). 10.30 Drag Racing (14299). 11.00 Goals on Sunday (95185). 12.00 FA Cup First Round day - Live (3156253), 6.30 Spanish Football - Live (55369), 8.30 Futbol Mundial (4475), 9.00 Footbali (928369). 12.00-4.00am Cricket (2625302).

6.00am Revelations 6.30 Looking for Love 7.00 Spanish Archer 7.30 Mind and Body 8.00 Why Files 8.30 Video Box 9.00 Psychic Pet Show 9.30 Fashion 10.00 Revelations 10.30 rashion 10.00 Reverations 10.30 Looking for Love 11.00 Gail's Campus Capers 11.30 Spanish Archer 12.00 Revelations 12.30 Why Files 1.00 Looking for Love 1.30 Pyschic Pet Show 2.00 Fashion 2.30 Mind and Body 3.00 Canary Wharf 4.30 Cail's Campus Capers 5.00 Papels and Body 3.00 Canary Whari 4.30 Gail's Campus Capers 5.00 Revela-tions 5.30 Looking for Love 6.00 Fashion 6.30 Sport 7.00 Spanish Archer 7.30 Revelations 8.00 Psy-chic Pet Show 8.30 Why Files 9.03 Eva's Seventies Pop Show 9.30 Looking for Love 10.03 Sport 10.30 Stand Lin 3.1.03 Evan Experience Stand-Up 11.03 Fate and Fortune 11.30 The Sex Show 12.03 Revelations 12.30 Kiss TV 1.30-6.00am



This exercise in retro-analysis (composed by N Petrovic) is a variation on a well-known theme. The question is: what were the last six moves (three White and three Black)?

Black is in check, but White's bishop cannot have moved to a1 without Black having already been in check. It cannot have been a discovered check for the same reason. If you've seen this sort of thing before, you'll quickly recognise that there's only one possibility: White has just made an en pussant capture of a pawn on e5. Black's previous move was ...e7-e5, to which White

replied either feet or deet. But how did the bishop deliver check before ...e7-e5? The only possibility is that the white pawn was on d4 and discovered check by moving to d5. Now comes the really clever bit. With white pawn on d4, black pawn on e7, what was Black's last move? Any move of the king seems to be from an impossible double check. There is only one way cut of the dilemma. From the diagram, move the black king on e6, add black pawns on 17 and e7, white ones on e5 and d4. Play continues 1...f5 2.exf6+ Kxf6 3.d5+ e5 4.dxe6+ and we're home! A splendid double-retro-en passant!

Chess William Hartston | You may have missed ...

the alcohol abuse in Colombia and Scotland and other staggering tales from the week's news.

Drunk in charge of a shoe Colombia plans to institute fines to pedestrians for walking under the influence of alcohol". Anyone convicted of "drunk walking" will be subject to a fine of up to \$250. Accident figures show that 840 pedestrians were killed on the roads in Bogotá between January 1995 and June 1996.

No.3146 Saturday 16 November

Staggering on the increase The Scottish Council on Alcohol report a 29 per cent rise in counselling sessions for people with drink problems. They describe this as a "staggering increase".

His own granddad Relationships in the Bray family in Barnsley are set to become complicated as Mary Bray's son, Alan Chambers, 42, approunced plans to marry Anne Whittaker, the 69-year-old mother of Mrs Bray's new husband, Wilson.

Her son will then become her stepfather-in-law. **Bottomless robbers**

Thieves stole 11,000 bras from a warehouse in Sydney, Australia, but missed out on the matching parties and suspender belts.

Bumpy flight Lee Jee-young, 23, a student in South Korea, became the first person to bungee-jump from a paraglider. She

successfully dropped about 200 metres.

Walk affectedly (5)

10 Religious groups (5)

Seafarer (7)

11 London area (4)

13 Play on words (3)

14 Sicilian volcano (4)

20 Opposite (verbally) (7)

12 Agreeable (7)

16 NE river (4)

21 Half-open (4)

25 Normal (7)

26 Seafood (6)

18 Night before (3)

24 Blow with fist (5)

27 Political body (5)

Rough and husky (6)

concise crossword

ACROSS

technology to monitor the progress of bubbles in beer. They hope to solve the mystery of why bubbles go up instead of down in

Researchers in York have

begun a project using laser

Pure genius

DOWN

Christmas gamble Santa Claus, known as Ashley Cotter-Cairns before a name-change by deed poll, has bet £50 at 1,000 to 1 odds that he will top the pop record charts this Christmas.

Sensitive plant (6)

Sea eagle (4)

Lean back (7)

Flag (6)

18 Alter (5)

23 Halt (4)

ACROSS: 7 Trance, 8 Ending (Transcending), 10 Esquire, 11 Reign, 12 Peel, 13 Franci, 17 Comma, 18 Stem, 22 Hotel, 23 Neptune, 24 Madras, 25 Edicis, DOWN: 1 Attempt, 2 Lacquer, 3 Acrid, 4 Onerous, 5 Civic, 6 Agent,

9 Merriment, 14 Poll tax, 15 Staunch, 16 Immerse, 19 Shame, 20 Study, 21

Out of date (8)

13 Uncle's place? (8)

15 Fairy queen (7) 17 University precinct (6)

19 By word of mouth (6) 22 Member of panel (5)

Compass point (5)

Symbol of royal author-

Bridge Alan Hiron

Game all; dealer West North **49743** ♥KJ975 **♦K4 +**104 **♠**QJ62 **♠**K8 ♥42 OAQJ98 ♦107653 **4762** South **♦A** 10 5 ♥A Q 1086 ٥2 #AKQ8

This deal was a splendid example of opportunism. It was played by Danny Rotman of Florida and described by Eddie Kantar in the excellent magazine Bridge Today.

The bidding was short and sweet. After three passes, Rotman as South opened I ♥ and West doubled. North raised pre-emptively to 4 ♥and South jumped to the heart slam. West led ◆Q against Six Hearts

other table, but the opening lead

Perplexity

Mixed doubles:

That sentence conceals three closely related one-word answers. To find them, all you need do is regroup the six words into three pairs, then

A Larousse Desk Reference first correct answer opened on 28

wrong cards! It looked a hopeless cause, with three potential losers (two spades and a diamond) and no immediate discards. There was, however, a slender chance. Try covering up the East-West hands and see if you can spot it. Declarer won immediately, crossed to dummy with a trump and led ◆10. He had every intention of running it, but East covered with his

Night-Time Programmes

and dummy was a grave

disappointment - it held all the

second trump and +8 finessed successfully. Now both of dummy's diamonds went away on top clubs and one loser had been avoided. South ruffed his solitary diamond on the table, eliminating the suit, and all that remained to do was exit with a spade. East won and, with only diamonds left, had to concede a ruff and discard and South's last

jack. Dummy was re-entered with a

losing spade went away. The contract was the same at the was OA which left declarer with no

Bade ripe sick roots squint harder.

rearrange the letters within each

Encyclopedia will be awarded to the

November, Entries to: Perplexity. The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

2 November competition answers The items in the series indicated the position on a typewriter or computer keyboard of the letters of the alphabet starting with 2.1 (row 2 key 1) for A, then 3.5 (row 3 key 5) for B, and so on. The answer is thus 3.6 (row 3 key 6) for N. Winner: Michael Donaldson (Berkhamsted).



The big picture The Deer Hunter Sun 9.30pm C4

Put the puerile, romanticised view of friendship and battle aside for one moment - and indeed the film's whole reactionary spin on the Vietnam war - and there's no denying the pulp power of Michael Cimino's story of three Pennsylvania steelworkers fighting together in Southeast Asia. You may not like what Cimono has to say, but you can't deny the intensity with which he says it. A fine cast includes Robert De Niro, Christopher Walken and Meryl Streep.

Television preview Recommended viewing this weekend

by Gerard Gilbert

kept wondering what it was I was being reminded of. Then the answer came to me - it was EastEnders.

The trouble with so many of these TV adaptations of literary classics is that, strip away the authorial voice, and what you are left with are the bare bones of melodrama. This really hit home during the second half of tomorrow night's opener, when we are discovering the exact nature of Helen Graham's dark past. Her cad of a husband, played by Rupert Graves, is David Wicks (albeit with lashings of Richard E Grant in Withnail-on-a-bender mode), and his drinking problem is one we sat through with Phil Mitchell a couple of weeks ago. So what is left to elevate this beyond EastEnders? The frocks? The Broate country locations? Tara Fitzgerald's cheekbones?

Now, I never saw the highly regarded (especially among the broody) Baby It's You, but I understand it was a Desmond Morris-type series about how tiny tots perceive the world. From the same people comes

Ruby Wax Meets the Duchess of York Sun 8pm BBC1 The Tenant of Wildfell Hall Sun 8.30pm BBC1 The South Bank Show Sun 10.45pm ITV to sniffing, running and hearing, however, we're the dunces). Since these domesticated wolves do not grow

of pet pooches are kept in a state of permanent adolescence. No wonder we get on with them so well. Talking of dogs - a quick word about Dallas Doll (Sat BBC2). That word contains four letters, and it's what does do too often on the pavement. The only consolation about this obscure Screen Two is that the costs, dear licence-payer, were shared with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. I can hardly bring myself to waste the brain cells in description suffice it to say it involves a New York golf pro (Sandra Bernhard - well quite) insinuating herself into the

up until they have hunted and killed, 99.99 per cent

lives and beds of a suburban Aussie family. The writer Jimmy McGovern tells Melvyn Bragg in this week's South Bank Show (Sun ITV) how he stopped himself from stammering as a child by making himself angry. McGovern, most famous for his work Sarah Ferguson. She ditched the Windsors, didn't she.

atching the the BBC's new costume drama. A Dog's World (Sat C4) and, well, you get the picture. a three-part adaptation of Anne Brontë's The Tenant of Wildfell Hall (Suu BBC1), I angle – and then in greens and blues (when it comes currently hot under the collar about the Hillsborough football disaster - and the disgraceful way, from the police to the Sun, a lot of people behaved. Along the usual biographical parabola we see snatches of

Huw Weldon Memorial Lecture Sat 6.15pm BBC2

A Dog's World Sat 8pm C4

Dallas Doll Sat 9.30pm BBC2

McGovern's teeth-cutting work on Brookside, which rubs home how that soap seems to have lost its way. The BBC has obviously run a three-line whip for The Huw Wheldon Memorial Lecture (Sat BBC2). in which every TV presenter still alive (with the exception of David Attenborough, who is no doubt in some maccessible corner of Borneo, wise man) has been corralled into a studio to listen to BBC chief executive Will Wyatt, It reminded me of those gruesome ITV An Audience With... jobs. And finally - having told Oprah last week that she couldn't go on, here's Fergie again - in Ruby Wax Meets the Duchess of York (Sun BBC1). It beats me why anyone hoping to retain a shred of dignity would submit themselves to Ruby Wax. Masochism isn't usually a word I associate with



The big match **Guardian Direct Tennis** Sun 2.50pm BBC2

For the first time since 1978, Britain has two men tennis players, Tim Henman (above) and Greg Rusedski, in the ATP top 50. Last year, Henman best Rusedski in the National Championship final - and the seeding, if not recent form, suggests a similar encounter on Sunday.



Saturday television and radio

BBC₁

7.00 The Pink Parither Show (R) (1872784). 7.25 News, Weather (2477448).
7.30 Children's BBC: The Morph Files. 7.40 Speed

Racer. 8.05 The Real Adventures of Joriny Quest. 8.30 The New Adventures of Superman (R) (S)

9.15 Live and Kicking. With Mark Owen, Jimmy Nail

and Steve Coogan (55303149). 12.12 Weather (4005177). 12.15 Grandstand. Introduced by Steve Rider. 12.20 Football Focus. 1.00 News. 1.05 Figure Skating: from Guildford. 1.25 Motor Racing: From Donington Park. One-off race over 80 laps, which has attracted many of the top drivers who took part in this season's British Touring Car Championship. 2.00 Tennis: from Telford. 3.45 Rugby Union: live second-half coverage of Leicester v Harlequins.
4.30 Tennis, 4.45 Final Score (S) (38762055).
5.25 News, Weather (7612887). *
5.35 Regional News and Weather (260622).

5.40 Children in Need. Gaby Rostin and Terry Wogan

preview next Friday's fundraiser (S) (256413). * 5.55 Jim Davidson's Generation Game. Antiques Roadshow expert Eric Knowles and Cannon and Ball help out (S) (831210). *

6.55 Noel's House Party, Ian St John earns a Gotcha from serial prankster Noel Edmonds (S) (584790). 7.50 The National Lottery Live. Bryan Adams gets the

balls rolling (878245). 8.05 Casualty. So farewell then, Dr Mike Barratt. Meanwhile, the truth is revealed about a teenager whose parents think she must be pregnant (S)

8.55 News and Sport, Weather (Followed by National Lottery Update) (634158). *
9.15 File The Substitute (Martin Donovan 1993 US).

Amanada Donohoe is believable enough as the high school teacher who will go to any lengths to hide her dark past: Look out for Marky Mark as one of the pupils at her new school (S) (7557581). * 10.40 Match of the Day. Manchester Utd v Arsenal is the

main event. Hansen and Brooking chew the cud (S) (9760500). * 11.50 The Stand-Up Show. With Ed Byrne, Phil Nichol, Keith Dover and Dominic Holland (S) (273535). 12.25 Top of the Pops. As shown last night, with Mark Owen, East 17, Woolpackers, Backstreet Boys and

(4835456). 12.55 Annie Lennox... in the Park. The green space in question is New York's Central Park, and this live set - La Lennox's first in six years - took place in September 1995 (R) (S) (1924123).

Robson and Jerome live in the studio (R)

REGIONS. Wales: 2.00pm Rugby: Cardiff v Bath. Scot: 10.40pm Sportscene - Match of the Day. NI: 2.00pm Rugby Union. 4.00 Tennis. 11.50 The Hole in the Wall Gang. 12.25 The Stand Up Show. 12.55 Top of the Pops. 1.30 Annie Lennox... in the Park, 2.30 Weather.

BBC2

7.10 The Saint Takes Over (Jack Hively 1940 UKO. George Sanders helps of bobby friend who is 8.20 Open University: Regions Apart (8439603). 9.10
A Language for Movement (1314968). 9.35
Managing Biodiversity (7471090).

10.00 Chanakya, Indian historical saga (S) (3974069).
10.35 Network East (S) (6691500).

11,20 Bollywood or Bust! (S) (9217806). 11,50 Australia Wild (6901535).

12.20 Film 96 with Barry Norman. The First Wives Club, True Blue, and The Island of Dr Moreau are re-Bazza'd (S) (R) (4968429). *

12.50 EUM The Story of Vernon and Irene Castle (HC Potter 1939 US). The ninth and last of the Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers RKO musicals finds them cramped by having to play a real-life husband and wife couple (the Castles were pre-First World War ballroom-dance sensations) and by the biopic form itself (4398177). *

2.20 THE Paper Tiger (Ken Annakin 1976 UK). The first of two David Niven films finds our man playing a cowardly, mild-mannered tutor to the young son

of the Japanese ambassador, who gets to show some bravery. Toshiro Miffune co-stars (305581).

3.55 AMM Man Godfrey (Henry Koster 1957 US).
Slightly better, but not much, this one finds Niven as an Austrian exile living illegally in the US, covering his tracks by taking a job as butler to a family of upper-crust oddballs (5350603).

5.25 TOTP 2 (S) (5989239).

6.15 The Huw Wheldon Memorial Lecture. See

Preview, above (336500).

7.00 News and Sport, Weather (196993). * 7.15 Assignment. Although General Alexander Lebed has been ousted from the Kremlin in a power struggle with President Yeltsin, he still harbours ambitions to rule Russia. Tom Carver followed him during the events of his recent banishment (S)

8.00 What the Papers Say (S) (478429). 8.10 The Road from Jarrow. Dennis Skinner and the Independent's Polly Toynbee are to be found on Sir Bernard Ingham's continuing history lesson about Britain since 1936. The deterioration of society is this week's main theme (S) (672158). *

9.00 Have I Got News for You (R) (S) (6332). * 9.30 Screen Two: Dallas Doll. See Preview, above (S)

8.40 The Car's the Star. The Citroen 2CV (105061). *

11.10 Later with Jools Holland. Metallica, Donovan, and Catatonia feature (S) (320142). 12.10 The Big Silence (Sergio Corbucci 1967 ft). lent – and verv dark – spaghetti western set in 1896 Utah, where bounty hunter Klaus Kinski is

picking off outlaws driven to find shetter in the local villages – until mute gunfighter Jean-Louis Trintignant gets in the way. The score is by Ennio Morricone (Followed by Weatherview) (814036). * To 2.00am.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV. 6.00 News. 6.10 Mole in the Hole. 6.30 Professor Bubble. 6.50 Bug Alerd 7.10 Disnay's Wake Up in the Wild Room. 8.20 Gargoyles. 8.50

Alien Rangers (1874177).

9.25 Wow. With John Pickard and Claire Buckfield from 2 point 4 Children, EastEnders heartthrob Paul Vicholis, and Ant and Dec (S) (72138413). 11.00 The Noise. Andi Peters goes behind the scenes at the 1996 MTV European Music Awards (3622).

11.30 The Chart Show (S) (74264). 12.30 Champions of the Future (55055). 1.00 News and Weather (38557697). * 1.05 Local News, Weather (38556968). *

1.10 Champions League Special. Preview of next Wednesday's games, including Manchester United's big test against Juventus (7931852). 1.45 Movies, Games and Videos (898142). 2.15 Cartoon Time (46670993).

2.20 Mister Ten Per Cent (Peter Graham Scott 1967 UK). Builder Charlie Drake turns his questionable talents to writing drama. With Derek Nimmo and John Le Mesurier (4878239). 3.50 seaQuest 2032. They all live in a futuristic submarine. A tiny black hole in the fusion reactor

hurtles the crew back to the Cuban missile crisis of October, 1962 (S) (2536061). *

4.45 News, Sports Results, Weather (5871055). *

5.05 London Tonight, Sports Results (Followed by LWT Weather) (5021719). *

5.20 New Baywatch. Mitch leads a group of junior lifeguards on a survival training weekend. It all goes horribly wrong (S) (7087121). *
6.15 Gladiators (S) (476719). *

7.15 Blind Date (Including National Lottery Result) (S)

8.15 Family Fortunes (S) (689581). *

8.45 JTN News, Weather, Lottery Result (Followed by LWT Weather) (632790). *
9.00 See Sleepless in Seattle (Nora Ephron 1993 US). Meg Ryan dusts down her character from When Harry Met Sally, this time to beat a twisty

path to true love with the recently bereaved Tom Hanks (whose young son has been soliciting for him on the late-night radio airwaves). Largely enjoyable, if you can live with the vigorous punching of the switch marked "romance". Bill Pullman – as Ryan's dull but dependable francé, and Rob Reiner co-star (S) (28028142). *

10.55 MTV Europe Music Awards 1996. Coverage of Europe's biggest music awards, from London's Alexandra Palace. (1307177).

12.25 Furny Business (S) (1906727). 1.00 ETES Revealing Evidence (Michael Switzer 1990 US). A jaded cop gets involved with a female prosecutor when they both find themselves on the trail of a serial killer in Hawaii. No stars (80730).

2.30 The Chart Show (R) (S) (2927949). 3.20 El News Review (7997524). 4.10 God's Gift (R) (3191814). 5.05 Coach (R) (S) (2682562). To 5.30am.

Channel 4

6.00 Sesame Street (1249622). 6.55 The Magic School Bus (3708697).
7.30 Really Wild Animals (7580622).
7.50 First Edition. With Jon Snow. (2120535).

8.05 King Arthur and the Knights of Justice (9183784). 8.35 Hang Time (6790500).

9.00 The Morning Line (30974). 10.00 Gazzetta Football Italia. Italian football magazine

(40264). 11.00 Blitz! American football magazine (S) (57500).

12.00 Sign On. Ponders at marriages between deaf and hearing people (S) (25326).

12.30 In the Company of Whales, Oceanic pollution and associated whale grief (R) (S) (77351).

2.00 Racing from Cheltenham, Brough Scott introduces

the 2.20 Murphy's Draughtflow Hurdle (H'Cap), the 2.55 Murphy's Gold Cup Handicap Chase, the 3.30 Flowers Original Handicap Chase and the 4.05 Mackeson Novices' Hurdle (33409871).

4.35 Four-Mations: Electric Passions. Considers theme park rides, and the Oscar-nominated film, The End (\$) (4182603). 5.05 Brookside Ontnibus (\$) (41 12546). *

6.30 Right to Reply (S) (531). *

7.00 News Summary and Weather (192697).
7.10 A Week in Politics (S) (183245).
8.00 A Dog's World. See Preview, above (S) (9535). *
9.00 ER. Greene's day goes from bad to worse when he makes a bad-impression on the new department head (R) (S) (646500) **

head (R) (S) (646500).**

9.55 to Brand Through the Calebole (R) (S) (616968).

10.25 NYPD Blue. Simone and Spowicz ingestigate the murder of a gay bar owner (R) (S) (556270).

11.25 EMB WW and the Dipide Danceldines both (S) Avildsen 1975 US). Amiable—If younge this said of thing—yam-in which 1950s comman Blue Reynolds tales cover as the manager of a treatment country musicians, while being hodinided by Evangelist detective, Art Carmey (possibly the Belling Interesting element of the movie). Ned Bellin and Don Williams co-star (422210). Don Williams co-star (422210).

1.05 Late Licence: Manga 3x3 Eyes (S) (7464746). 2.05 The New Twilight Zong, Shy waitiess Supley.

Duvall receives a message from a Tyring sauceduring her lunch hour (\$\sqrt{2954291}\).

2.35 United States of Television. You don't have to delve into American TV any more to come up with jaw-dropping inanity and breath-taking surrealism. Some of the stuff on Sky and cable TV in this country is equally gob-smacking. My own personal favourite comedy - outside Richard and Judy's incomparable This Morning - is the QVC shopping channel, which gets utterly surreal (9989123).

3.20 Full Frontal. Comedy sketches from Australia (67131456).

3.50 The Real World, Briefly influential house-share vérité - and it looks as if romance could be in the air for two of the San Francisco co-habitees (S) (5587825). To 4.40am.

ITV/Regions

MSUR As London except: 12:30 pm Movies, Garries and Videos (55055), 1.40 Touring Cars (29942719), 2.10 Air-woll (2933158), 3.10 Films, Dreams of Gold: The Mel Fisher Story (70657413), 12:25 em Carriel Knowl-edge (1943727); 1.30 em Films Lambeda - The For-bidden Danca (453920), 3.10 em Heller Steller (7991340), 4.00 em Films The Gardie Texp (81562), 5.00-5.30 em Saling (37307).

5.00-5.30am Salirig (37307).
CHMMB. 2 MORTH EAST/ORESIRE
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, German and Videos
(55.055), 1.40 Films: Reine the Titanici (83.999.326).
3.45 Airwolf (94.1448), 5.10 Chennell 3 North EastFull Time (546.906)), Yorks: Soureline (64.906)).
10.55 Films Video of Beauty (755.78326), 12.35am
Furry Business (33.90524), 1.05ato Coschi (67.27727).
1.35am With and Remembrance (64.6543), 3.25am
Late & Loud (13.19949), 4.25am Murder, She Vijole (566.1543), 5.15-5.30am Sound Bites (3405.366).

EBIRNI.
As London society. 12.30pm Premiera (55055): 1.10
Sport Classics (66586158): 1.25 Champions League
Special (39614142): 1.55 Eastern Mix (29931603).
2.25 Movies, Garnes and Videos (57116239): 2.55
Airwolf (1907239): 3.50 RobyCop (2596061): 5.10
Gosts Edus (6459061): 4.10am Jobinder (5091098).
5.20.5.20mn Belan Fue (1994098). 5,20-5,30am Asian Eye (1294098).

HIV
As Lundon except: 12.30pm West: Movies, Garnes and Videos (55055). Wales: California Officest (17077142), 12.45 Wales: Rughy 2000 (17072697).

1.40 West: No Naled Flames (7023887). Wales: The Electric Chair (29942719). 2.10 Males: Movies: The Electric Chair (29942719). 2.10 Males: Movies: Garnes and Videos (70749448), 2.46 Flairs (2014). The Magnificent Seven (45404) 777; 12.25 Int 687-ral Knowledge (1943727). 1.30em Flairs Lambade - The Forbidden Dance (453920). 3.16 Jun Haller Steits (7991.340). 4.00em Flairs. The Genticilage (21528, 5.00-5.30em World of Salling (37382).

As Landon except 12.30pm Movies, Gausse and Videos 55.055), 1.40 A405 (29942713), 2.10 Sallings, (70749448), 2.40 Carbon (29533512.250 Ahreoli (1908968), 3.45 Knight Rider (941448), 12.25am, Camal Knowledge (1943727), 1.30gin Rime, Lambade – The Forbidden Carbos (453920), 3.40am, Heiter Seller (7991340), 4.00am, Pinter (196 Gardie Teap (451552), 6.004, 5.00am, Pinter (196 Gardie Teap (451552), 6.004, 5.00am, Pinter (196 Gardie Teap (451552), 6.004, 5.00am, Pinter (196 Gardie Teap 81562). 5.00-5.30am Pressum (37307).

Garde Rap (87052) 5.00 - S. Guarde Rap (27052) 5.00 - S. C. As C. A. S. C. S. C. A. S. C. Manga 3x3 Eyes (7464746).

Radio

697 6-99 (MAL): FILM 7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 Dave Pearce 1.00 Jo Whiley 4.00 John Peel 7.00 Lovegroove Dance Party with Danny Rampling 9.00 Radio I Rap Show 12.00 The Radio 1 Reggae Dancehall Nite 2.00 Soho Live: Essential Mix 4.00-7.00am Charlie Jordan

Radio 2

(28-90.3%) 円の 6.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright 1.00 Carrott's Cornedy 1.30 Smith and Jones Sound Off 2.00 Judi Spiers
4.00 Nick Barradough 5.00 Let it
Rock - The Chuck Berry Story 6.00
Sky in Concert 7.00 I Write the Songs 7.30 Grand Opera Gala 9.30 David Jacobs 10.00 The Belfast Fest Feast 12.05 Charles Nove 4.00-7.00am Mo Dutta

C12-92-460; RO 7.00am Record Review, With Richard Osborne.

9.00 Building a Library. Stephen
Johnson compares available
recordings of Mazart's Divertimento in E. Rat for String Itio.
10.15 Record Release. BernsteinArias and Barcarolles. Welli: It Never was You; How can You Tell an American? Porter: Brush Up your Shakespeare: Pavane; I am Ashamed that Women are so Simple: Shrew Finale; Grand Fi-

11.15 Reissues, Michael Other samples the latest offerings in the Matrix Series from EMI. 12.00 Private Passons, Michael Berkeley talks to Otiver Sacks. Clinical Professor of Neurology at the Albert Einstein College edicine in New York, about his

favourite pieces of music, 1.00 News; Vintage Years, Richard Wignore explores the life of countertenor Alfred Deller, who had radically changed the musi-cal landscape by the time of his death in 1979, and discusses his career with his son. (1/3). 3.00 Zehelmair's Bach. Bach: Par

tita No 2 in D minor, BWV1004. 3.30 Young Artists' Forum, Mozart-Abendempfindung, K523; Komm Liebe Zither, K351, Coeridge-Taylor: The Willow Song. Poulenc: Fancy, Debussy: Quatre Chansons de Jeunesse, Bach: Stub. David Kechley: An Easy cidentally Fall (Saxoloitation). Brahms: Viola Sonata in E flat.

Choice

The literary life is under scrutiny in a new books magazine,

Op 120 No 2. (5/5). 5.00 Jazz Record Requests. With Geoffrey Smith. 5.45 Music Matters. Ivan Hewett examines Bernd Alois Zimmer-mann's opera Die Soldaten, one of the most important works of the post-war period. 6.30 Don Giovanni, Comic drama

or dramatic cornedy? Mozart's famous examination of the life 9.35 Speaking Volumes. Kevin Jackson reads a new biography of Walter Benjamin. See Choice,

10.05 Colin Towns's Mask Orches-tra. Colin Towns is a prolific composer for film and television, but his first love is jazz. Alyn Shipton introduces a concert his 19-piece Mask Orchestra gave at the London Jazz Festival.

Radio 4

62.4-94.6Mb FM, 198Mb Uni 6.00mm News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.50 Prayer for the Day. 6.55 Weather 8.58 Weather 9.05 Sport on 4.

10.00 News; Loose Ends. 11.00 News; The Week in West-minster. With Anne Applebaum of the Evening Standard. 11.30 EuroFile. There is increasing talk of a military coup in Turkey. But will the army, traditional de fender of the secular state, act in

12.00 Money Box. 12.25 I'm Sony I Haven't a Clue 12.55 Weather, 1.00 News.
1.10 Any Questions?
1.55 Shipping Forecast.
2.00 News; Any Answers?

tonight in Ad Lib (6.50pm R4), in which Robert Robinson (left) drags a group of ghost writers into the limelight; while Kevin lackson reads between the lines Speaking Volumes (9.35pm R3) - this week, the legacy of the German critic Walter Benjamin.

2.30 Saturday Playhouse: Ethan Frome. In Edith Wharton's clas-sic love story, a new arrival in and lame figure of a man called Ethan Frome and determines to find out what happened to him. With John Sharian, Barbara

Barnes and Lorela King.

4.00 News; A History of Reading in Five Volumes. From railway bookstaffs to advertising posters, Don Fowler examines how 19th-century steam technology revolutionised print production. (4/5).

4.30 Science New Attra Levis 4.30 Science Now, Alun Lewi

peers into the microscopic world af nanotechnology. 5.00 Fite on 4. 5.40 In Celebration. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather.

5.00 Six O'Clock News. 5.25 Week Ending, Sathrcal news review with Sally Grace, Jon Glover and Dave Lamb. 6.50 Ad Lib. Robert Robinson talks to a selection of ghost writers. Are they happy to be out of the imeligral? How much money

does it take to keep them there? See Choice, above.
7.20 Kaleidoscope Festure. Across Britain, cities are investing in new concert halls and art com plexes, facilities which show an increasing interest in raising the cultural profile of metropoliten areas. Penny Wrout examines the motives behind this artistic

Expansion and asks what effect it has on city life. 7-50 On These Days, A look back at some of the events that took place exactly 50 years ago, in a week when daily rations in some parts of Germany fell to fewer than one thousand calories per

8.50 Saturday Night Theatre. The Roof of the World. By John

Fletcher, A tale of heroism set in 1891, when a Muslim sepoy led

the British Army up a precipica in the Hirmalayes to storm a hith-exto impregnable fortress. (3/3).

9.35 Classics with Kay. Brian Kay takes a musical tour of Spain. 9.50 Ten to Ten. Richard Cotes talks with Anne Widdecombe about matters of life and faith 10.00 News.

10.15 Kindertransport. In Diane Samuels' drama, the discovery of a German copy of The Ret-catcher opens doors and marnories which have been hidden

riss which have been modern away for over 40 years. 11.45 Big Bands, Big Leaders. Ambrose, Lew Stone, Roy Fox, Victor Silvester, Joe Loss and the rest – Theo Barker examines how the legendary band leaders of the interwar years got started

12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Story! The Pebble.
By Bryan MacMahon.
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00-6.00am As World Service.

Radio 5

6.05am Dirty Tackle 6.30 Brian Hayes 9.05 Kershaw and Whittake 11.05 Top Gear 11.35 Hold the Front Page 12.05 Baker and Kelly Upfront 1.05 Sport on Five 6.06 Sb:0-Skx 8.05 The Treatment 9.05 Dallyn UK 10.05 Brief Lives 10.35 Word Up! 11.00 Night Extra 12.05 Night Talk 2.00 Up All Night 5.00-

Classic FM

(00.0-101.5Mb: RA) 6.00dm Sarah Lucas 9.00 Countdown 12.00 Gardening Forum. 1.00 Alan Mann 4.00 Nick Balley 7.00 Russian Revelation 8.00 Evening Concert. Debussy: La Mer. Egan: Sea Pictures. Britten: Four Symphony No 3 10.00 Classic Quiz 12.00 Andre Leon 4.00 Travel Guide 5.00-6.00am Michael Fan-

Virgin Radio (1215, 1197-1280Mtz WWY 195.8MMtz FM) 6.00am Janey Lee Grace 8.00 Russ and Jono 10.00 Jeremy Clark 2.00 Mark Fortest 6.00 Lynn Parsons 10.00 Robin Banks 2.00-6,00am Howard Pearce

World Service Looam Newsdesk 1.30 Quote... Unquote 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Peo-ple & Politics 3.00 News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Music Review 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Short

Story Special 4.45 On the Move

7.00am My Little Pony (9114784). 7.25 Dynamo Duck (3108719): 7.30 Deliy and His Friends (71158). 8.00 Osson and Olivia (48245). 8.30 Free

Satellite

Oson and Olivia (49245). 8.39 Free Willy (47516). 9.00 The Best of Sally Jessy Raphael (76790). 10.00 Designing Women (44516). 10.30 Murphy Brown (54852). 11.00 Parker Lewis Carit Lose (96852). 11.30 Real TV (97581). 12.00 WWF (85210). 1.00 The Hit Mix (74158). 2.00 Hercules (45245). 3.00 The Lazerus Man (50087), 4.00 WWF (83332), 5.00 Pacific Blue (8784), 6.00 America's

racific Blue (8784), 6.00 America's Dumbest Criminals (8603), 6.30 Just Kldding (6055), 7.00 Hercules (28993), 8.00 Unsolved Mysterles (31413), 9.00 Cops (24177), 10.00 The Feds (33388), 12.00 The Movie Show (65017), 12.30 Dresm On (18611), 1.00 Comedy Rules (21369), 1.30 The Edge (61475), 2.00-7.00am Hit Mix Long Play (33678).

7.00pm Earth 2 (9844451), 8.00 JAG (4090559), 9.00 VR5 (4195103). 10.00 Tales from the Crypt (3378500), 10.30 Tales from the Crypt (3467448), 11.00 The Hit Mb. (2250239), 12.00 Film: Death Wish II (1982) (8722456). 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix (7777307). SIC MOVES

6.00am The Letter (1981) (49806). 8.00 The Sabburg Connection (1972) (53697). 10.00 Seasons of the Heart (1993) (80719), 12.00 The Giant of Thunder Mountain (1990) (59448). 2.00 Medicine River (1993) (18516). 4.00 Little Buddins (1993) (30767142), 6.05 Heck's Way Home (1995) (51235177), 8.00 Pret.A. Porter (1994) (83094974), 10.15 Exotica (1994) (541784). 12.00 Virtual Desire (1995) (148630). 1.40 That Night (1992) (7065433), 3.05 The Spider and the Fly (1994) (7509727). 4.30-6.00am Heck's Way Home (1995) (20630).

MOVE CHANNEL 6.00am Holiday (1937) (47448). 8.00 Against All Flags (1952) (61239). 10.00 Tekwar: Teldah (1994) (71051). 12.00 Ridnie Rich (1994) (40790). 2.00 One Cooks, the Other Doesn't (1983) (16158), 4.00 Bermuda Triangle (1995) (4158). 6.00 Blank Chaque (1994) (29622). 8.00 Richie Rich (1994) (35239). 10.00 Rob Roy (1995) (30337/58), 12.25 Menace Society (1993) (165307), 2.05 Rob Roy (1995) (58512562), 4.30-6,00am Tekwar: Teklab (1994)

SIXY MOMES COLD 4,00pm Heavan Knows, Mr Allison (1957) (8212264), 6,00 Fet City (1972) (2496968), 8,00 The Four

es (1975) (2491413), 10.00 The Believers (1987) (4300546). 12.00 To Be or Not to Be (1983)

(8082123). 1.50 Youngblood (1986) (6037727). 3.40-5.20am Badman's Territory (1946) (1581272).

SKY SPORTS 1 7.00am World Sport Special (32239). 7.30 Cavelcade (99142). 8.30 Racing News (42142). 9.00 NHL Power Week (29905). 10.00 Rugby Club (13158). 11.00 Hold the Back Page (26522). 12.00 Sports Seturday (97628). 2.00 Rugby Union - Live (458326), 4.30 Sports Seturdey Results (84245), 6.00 FA Cup First Round Special (11887). 7.30 Spanish Football Special (11837).

9.30 FA Cup First Round Special (96177). 11.00 Rugby Update (25264). 1.00 Ice Hockey (648611).

3.30-5.00am FA Cup First Round Special (27289).

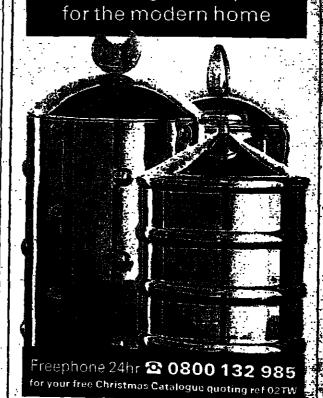
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7.00am Soccer AM (5638871). 11.00
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(4894239). 10.00 Surfing (4897326).
11.00 Memories (2328697). 11.301.00am FA Cup Finat Cassics: The '80s 1.00am FA Cup Final Classics: The '80s

12.00moon Selling (56548158). 12.30 High Pive (25140429). 1.00 World Motor Sport (87276264). 5.00 Caval-cade (36286245). 6.00 Sailing (10784448). 6.30 High Five (10695500). 7.00 Orbest (43459055). 11.00 Inside the Senior PGA Tour (50154852). 11.30-

6.00am Revelations 6.30 Looking for Love 7.00 Spanish Archar 7.30 Mind and Body 8.00 Why Files 8.30 Video Box 9.00 Psychic Pet Show 9.30 Pash-ion 10.00 Revelations 10.30 Looking for Lines 11.00 Mind and Body 11.30 for Love 11.00 Mind and Body 11.30 Spanish Archer 12.00 Campus Capers 12.30 Why Files 1.00 Looking for Love 1.30 Fast and Fortune 2.00 Pashion 2.30 Mind and Body 3.00 Video Box 3.30 Pin Money 4.00 Saturday Sport 5.30 Severities Pop 6.00 Pashion 6.30 Psychic Pet Show 7.00 Spanish Archer 7.30 Revelations 8.00 Bushido 9.03 Why Files 9.30 Looking for Love 10.03 Saturday Sport 10.30 Stand-Up Live 11.03 Faste and Fortune 11.30 The Sex Show 12.03 Revelations 12.30 Show 12.03 Revelations 12.30-

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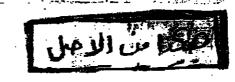
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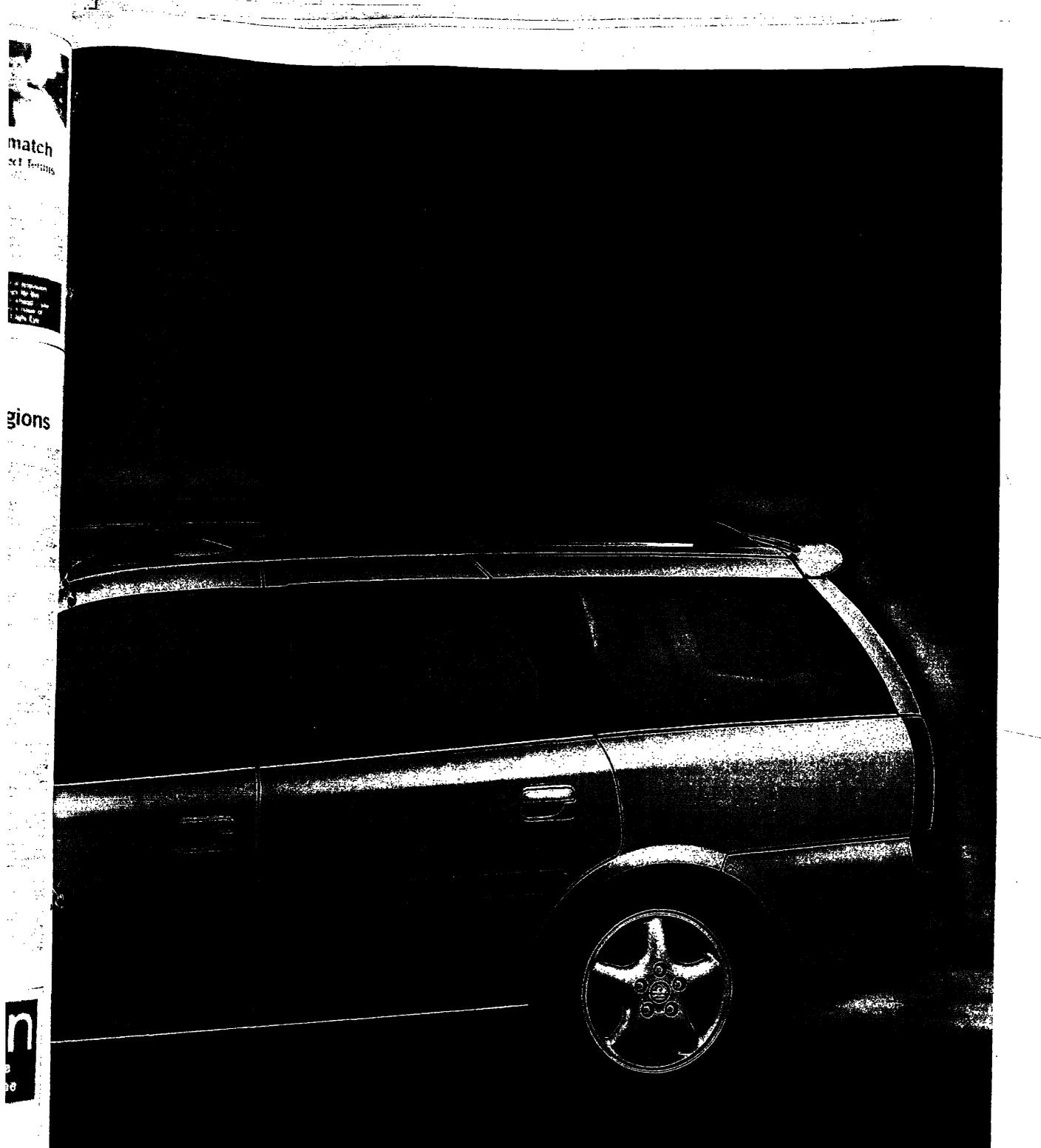
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UPPOSED TO BE BULKY AND BORING. VE SOME EXPLAINING TO DO.

MAJORITY of estate cars, it has to be said, tend to look as if they were designed as a bit of an afterthought.

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On the fiddle in Rome

Delgates to the World Food Summit wine and dine, and neglect the topic of hunger, says Anne Hanley

ion people around the globe may be but there's been little sign of deprivation at the World Food Summit, which winds up in Rome tomorrow.

Not, naturally, that you would have expected the delegations from 196 nations to include even a small sample of their countries' starving masses. No, the delegates here have a comfortable, well-fed look. And the tailored suits and flowing robes which have succeeded each other on the speaker's stand at regular seven-minute intervals over the past four days have placed worldly concepts such as having nothing with which to fill stomachs on a decidedly abstract plain. People are starving, so let's talk politics, diplomacy, big business ... Anything but concrete ways of help-ing the world's undernourished.

Setting the somewhat unreal tone for the gathering when it opened last Wednesday was Pope John Paul II. Curved over isation of the world's population, or even its reduction, could directly solve the problem of hunger," he warned, picking up where the Vatican delegation left off in the Cairo parley on population last year.

"A large population can prove to be a source of development because it involves Coming from a celibate man

sufficiently removed from worldly reality to be able to equate (as he has on numerous occasions) his own wellmonitored health problems with the suffering of the poor and needy, the invitation to go forth, multiply and thereby boost domestic markets had a hollow ring to it.
The Pope's words clearly

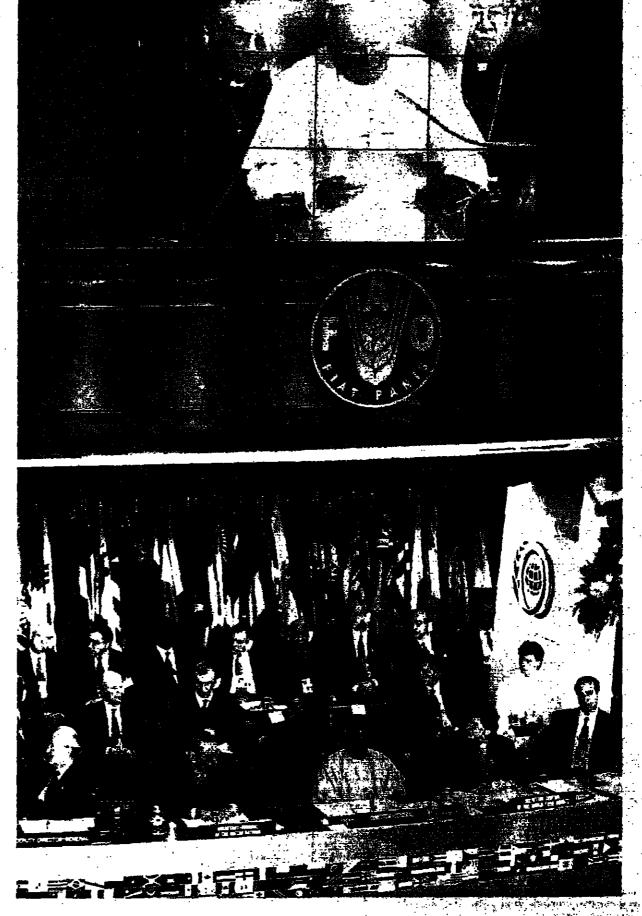
brought much pleasure to many mainly female, middle-aged journalists from obscure - generally Catholic - magazines, who felt vindicated in leaping up in ensuing press conferences to harangue delegates from most Western nations over their governments' birth control policies.

But they certainly failed to impress the US Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, who made no bones about underscoring his country's rift with the Vatican over the urgent need for family planning. While denying strongly that the US in his chair, mumbling his ever made food aid dependent one of the more memorable speech in halting French, the on population control mea- events of a generally dull sum-Pontiff gave every appearance sures, Glickman did resort to mit, Glickman's press confer-of having mixed up his summits: demographic scare tactics. ence was held up by a trio of "It would be an illusion to There will be 2.5 billion more women who ripped their 2010, he insisted in his address to the plenary session, and again in his ensuing press conference. And with this demoaway, he went on, a healthy or unhealthy, depending on your point of view - dose of bioengineering to increase crop yields and "improve" crop qual-

exchanges and demand for ity will be needed to defuse it. (The cynical might observe that this could also be good news for America's agribusiness.)

"We need to use science as friend," he told a press conference. "Naturally, I'm talking about sound, responsible science. If we don't look upon science as a friend we'll face food shortages 25 years from now much worse than those of In a not very convincing

attempt to show that he was prepared to admit America has some faults, Glickman talked of curbing food wastage in the US ("15 million meals a day are thrown into garbage bins in my country alone") but obviously, he continued, this is a job for the market: a free market, untrammelled by protectionist policies and allowing free rein to big business. Bring on, there-fore, the multinationals ("govemments are under too much fiscal pressure: large industry has the cash flow and the moral responsibility"), and their bioengineers. And cue protests: in ican slogans painted across their torsos, while a male colleague - fully dressed, of course - scattered organically grown graphic time bomb ticking grain over the assembled press corps. Embarrassed carabinieri bustled them out of the room as Glickman leered: "Aren't we all glad we're in a country where we're free to express



ourselves." Even something as tedious as a World Food Summit has some perks for the Agriculture Secretary.

Just down the road from the main attraction, at the Non-(NGO) Forum, Greenpeace called a press conference to protest against the US stance. One billion more hungry people in five years' time was the environmental watchdog's prediction for the world. And. Greenpeace thundered, if genetic manipulation of crops becomes the norm, health will suffer, the environment will suffer, control of food supplies will be concentrated in the hands of some 10 companies in developed countries which hold the patents for bioengineered seeds, and rural unemploy-ment in the Third World will shoot up as large-scale farm-

close for comfort to the topic that was meant to be under discussion, there were other, more exciting diversions to take delitself.

There was, for example, the mini-rerun of the Beijing summit on women: women's place in agricultural production. women's rights to education, rural women's access to finance. "To ensure food security, protecting women's rights and improving their health and nutrition is just as important as improved agricultural technology and trade," said Unicef's executive director, Carol Bellamy. (It was difficult not to won-

der what kind of beneficial effect was to be derived from first ladies' rights to spend five

ing methods are introduced. days shopping, and being ush-if this was all coming too ered around the beauty spots of important business at the

Great Lakes also provided a good alternative: Zaire's inveigh against the indignities speaker caught the plenary session wrong-footed when he demanded that food aid be sent elsewhere, along with the refugees who have done nothing but wreak economic and environmental havor on his comparatively wealthy and resource-rich nation. After a moment's embar

rassment, it was as if he had never opened his mouth, however: as if Zaire had no say in the matter, ministers from developed nations continued to pledge their support for the multilateral force which will

and unfairness of the embargo against his country, but his words were soon forgotten, swept along and away by the tide of generally tedious speeches paying hip service to the needs of the hungry. Iraq was unable to exploit its opportunity for appealing to the world's conscience, the world having carefully ensured that it was scheduled to speak late on in the summit, when attention

was already flagging. But Cuba, ah Cuba! Without saying a word about the situation caused by the US embargo,

it ensured that the world was vatching its every movement, bu a crescendo of suspense worthly of Alfred Hitchcock. For the 2.000-plus journalists in Rome for the summit; the Castro sage made running the gauntlet of an immense and not always swift-moving somulty operation - not to mention immense horedom - worthwhile. "Is he here?" "He's gotting

here tonight," "No, tomorrow morning." I know someone who's seen him here aiready." No, impossible, there's a storm in the Caribbean, I bet he won't

For the backs, hungry for a story more gripping than mild condemnations of food unfairness, this has not been so much the World Food Summit as the Castro Watch.

Fidel (and we all feel as if we're on first name terms with him by now) was expected to fly in - on Wednesday evening, and Thursday night, then Friday morning and now this morning - to give the world's leaders hell over Cuban Sanctions; but, if truth he told, it's not his nation's plight which is most compelling: of much greater importance, to the press at least, is whether he'll man the Pope and whether he's take up the magnanimous invi-tation from the Franciscans much persecuted by the Havana regime - to visit them at their headquarters in Assisi. After all, how can a mere 30 per cent drop in living standards as a result of the US emberge compare to Fidel's kissing the Pope's ring? And what p

ocused on the Castro show is little wonder that much of the world's press preferred to overlook one of the biggest provocations launched during the summit by Britain's Overseas

press after bee speech to the plentry session "There are deltainly not here in this building. That seems to negate the purpose of the summit."

Chalker also made a dig at international aid organisations, particularly the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) which has hosted this week's summit. Asked whether she approved of the work of UN agencies, she said pointedly: "The World Food Programme is doing admirable things. We are trying to get others to change their methods." And eliminating summits would be a good first step, she said. Few of the listening jour

nalists disagreed.

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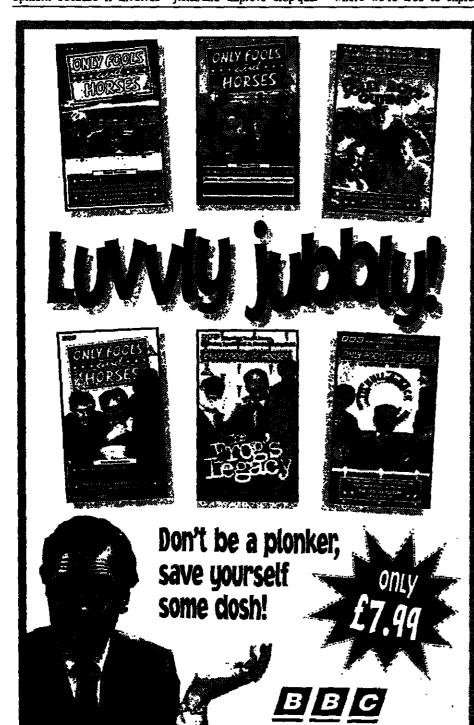
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column inches to the many that already abound concerning the increasing violence of women. I have to confess I did not watch the Panorama programme about it, but I could piece together more than the gist of it from previews and lashing out all over the place, and scare-mongering about the percentage increase in acts of young female violence has started a fierce debate about Female violence will never

be sanctioned in the way that boys will be boys" male violence is, I think this is because anything which demonstrates women are painfully establishing a real kind of equality will always be threatening to a certain proportion of men. Even Miss Canada International was said to have chirmed a love rival this week and if women who are supposed to be the epitome of demure and chaste, "Oh I really want world peace. Terry," femalehood, are turning to fisticuffs to sort out problems, nor-mally tackled with a good cry in the toilets and a helpless flutter of tear-stained eyelashes, then things must be getting bad. All we need to know is what proportion of women are forced to stay in

at night, because they are too scared to go out and perhaps we can understand why some girls are becoming toughs. Even poor old John, the

tour manager on the current tour I'm doing, came up against it in Warrington the other night. Six Amazons grabbed him around his stopwatch cord, demanding to see me and half scaring him to death. He flew into the backstage area like a bat out of hell and got me into the car. as if a cohort of Attila the Hun's bravest and best was on our tails, in case they spotted us and went for a more

sensitive area of his anatomy. I suppose the problem is that lots of blokes just don't know how to respond to this sort of behaviour by women, because somewhere in their minds women are fluffy bunnies who don't do this. Lots of women seem to be joining the boys because they can't beat them. Or, it appears. perhaps they can.

Who has ever slowed down on the motorway to get a good butchers at a spectacular car crash then? Most of us, I think. We are fascinated by mangled metal and fantasies of what's inside, although how many of us pull over to the side of the road for a

father on the strength of it is perhaps a more difficult estion to answer It seems that we can all secretly cope with the unsavoury aspect of our personalities which gets something out of road accideuts, but take it a bit further to overt sexual kicks and it becomes uncomfortable. This is why the new film Crash is having a problem swerving past the censor who has been greatly disturbed by it. One newspaper went as far as publishing several pages of the script.

From what I could make out, the producers are just looking for alternative venues for a bit more romping. Everyone did back-of-the-car stuff in the 50s and 60s, so to spice it up the sex scenes have to have an interesting catalyst. I expect they threw out lollipop ladies or squashed badgers as possible erotic stimuli. I'd

ban it on the basis that it's probably crap.

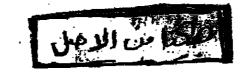
How absolutely horrible to have one's relationship dissected and chewed over in the public eye. Catchphrases and references to previous work. you have done come endlessly back to haunt you.

Poor old Caroline Aherne (aka Mrs Merton) is the latest victim as newspapers struggle to crowbar the "heated debate" line into their headlines. Perhaps the safest thing one can do is conduct one's affairs out of the public eye, where one knows a horde of slavering photographers will not be waiting to record every move and hoping for a slip-up that they can sell to be shown in those horrendous "showbiz stars ... warts and all" pages at the beginning of Sunday tabloid magazines.

I did a photo-call type

thing yesterday for the Ter-rence Higgins Trust as I am involved in setting up a show on World Aids Day, which involves comics being trans-ported around various venue by gay bikers. So there we were in North London with two bikers and a horde of photographers shouting instructions, not to mention passers by joining in with the odd bit of abuse. I was asked to get on and off a bike so often my thighs were firmed. up by the time I had finished and it was obvious that the snappers were praying for a fall. I survived, I think, but it you see a picture of me with my foot over a bike wearing pair of holey leggings you'll know they got me.

The very delicate situation in Bosnia was not helped this week by an Austrian army officer who allowed his peacekeeping troops to wear Tshirts emblazoned with Wogs go quiet when our strong arm dictates, Heavy platoon". The officer bas been sent home and relieved of his duties for tolerating the shirts. What a marvelious example to set a country riven by the sort of intractable racism that has created mass slaughter. Three cheers for the civilising influence of Western Europe.



Tall stories

From Sulawesi come the sounds of sanity at 60 feet



his week the man on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, who has been living up a cashew-nut tree for seven years, yet again refused to come down. Ever since an argument with his wife over the gado-gado provoked him to climb to the top of the tree, he has lived 60 feet above the ground, and (in an interesting piece of role reversal) has resisted the entreaties of his son to return

His story has become famous throughout the islands and archipelagos of he region, baffling the bilians, confounding the Kalimantese and dazzling the

Once such extreme behaviour would have seemed highly virtuous to those of us of the Judaeo-Christian tradition. In the early years of the Church - revolted by the venality of a much-expanded priesthood and congregation hordes of ascetics made off for desert places, where amongst the scorching boulders - they punished themselves with bodily austerities. Some wore heavy iron chain belts (which must have burned their middle parts), others are what the animals ate - like grass and lizards.

The shortest-lived did both. Then, in 423, a chap called ing the world horizontally, tried to escape it vertically He took over a disused pillar at Telanissus in northern Syria and sat on top of it. The pillar (a stunted thing to begin with) started low, but over the years, as Simeon's fame and desire for solitude increased together, the height was increased incrementally to some 60 feet; which, coincidentally, is exactly the same height as the tree-dweller of Sulawesi's best branches. On a platform, surrounded by a

halustrade about 12 feet square, St Simeon Stylites spent the next 36 years. It didn't work, of course. Though he had wished to avoid the press of people who flocked for advice and prayers even when he was a mere houlder-dwelling grass-eater, he now became the focus for emperors, other saints, pil-

grims, sightseers and - worst

of all - Roman tourists. Councils could not be held in Ephesus, disputes in Antioch or barnies in Byzantium without Simeon being consulted. All over Syria other stylites, taking note of his extraordinary social success, erected pillars of their own.

I mention this because it strikes me that - instead of trying to persuade this poor man to leave his arboreal refuge - many of us could do worse than to follow his example. If you really crave attention, climbing a tree in the local park, and deciding to live in it is a pretty surefire way of attracting it. And even if renouncing things is what you're into, once the local news cameras have gone, and you're left alone with a dinner of bark and bird's nests, there's plenty of scope for discomfort.

But I also think that living up trees probably satisfies some more basic urge in human beings. I remember the sensation of sitting in the high, swaving branches of a silver birch or cherry as being a distinctly pleasurable one. When Hayley Mills and the

Swiss Family Robinson made their Swiss Family Home in a giant baobab, and festooned it with walkways and swings, thought that this was a great way of living.

I was sure that Franz and Fritz (or whatever the boys' with me that urinating from the top of a tall tree - a golden are caught in the afternoon light - was magic.

And, of course, lodged deep somewhere in our genetic memory is a recollection of happy hours spent swinging by our tails through the forests of pre-history. Odd corners of our instincts still bear traces of those thousands of years; confronted by a ravening lion or a crocodile most of us will look around for a tree in which to seek

refuge. It's only natural. The man from Sulawesi may not have been in such immediate physical danger, but his need was obviously great and thus his decision to escape by shinning up the cashew-nut tree was entirely

Now that he's up, he's dis-covered what fun it is urinating from 60 feet, and doesn't want to come down. The guy is certainly not mad.

The pointless destiny of the Antarctic walker

ir Ranulph Fiennes set out on a walk yes-terday which is certain to be "unpleas ant" - the word for sheer hell.

Sir Ranulph aims to march 1,800 miles across Antarctica, taking in the South Pole as he goes. He will be lugging a 500lb sledge, everything he needs for 110 consecutive daily 18-mile walks. There is a good chance he will fall down a 60foot crevasse and, without a companion, be finished. There is a fair chance that he will starve or freeze to death. Only if things go hideously wrong is there likely to be much fuss. The fact is, Antarctic adventures aren't what they were. Sir Ranulph does not balk at the soggestion that the glory

days are over.

I have a profession in order to make an income", he says, when asked what's the draw of adventures in the wilderness. It's possible to see him in terms both less and more flattering: Nelson (who knew Arctic adventures as a young man) and Robert Falcon Scott (who died in Antarctica in 1912, having been beaten to the Pole) were both fiercely - and differently - driven by the need to make a mark. Surely Sir Ranulph has the same drive. This time, he is involved in

a sponsored circus turn, in which he more resembles Evel Knievel than Christopher Columbus. This is not his fault. The fact is, real exploration is now dead. In 1959, Wilfred Thesiger described his desert travels in the Empty Quarter a decade earlier. "To have done the journey on a carnel when I could have done it in a car would have turned the venture into a stunt."

Exploration, in other words, must have real and not contrived exigencies.

ne mia-rimies, ruci and Hillary crossed Antarctica with the help of the little grey Ferguson tractor - now a byword of quaininess. Once the motorised crossing had been accomplished, on the Thesiger argument, there was no need - no room - for further derring-do in Antarctica. Sir Ranulph might as well drive or fly across it. Win or lose, his trip will - as

have many of his others - raise a lot of money for charity (breast cancer research, this time). To that extent, it is worthy. But the thousands of sponsors might just as well have agreed to pay a certain sum per hour spent by Sir Ranulph on a treadmill in an abattoir's deep-freeze. His endurance and courage - never doubted - would have been as certainly tested.

The problem is not that Sir Ranulph can be plucked off the continent at the first real danger: he probably wouldn't let



Polar 'explorers' are brave people who endure terrible hardships. But do their journeys serve any purpose? Richard North spoke to Sir Ranulph Fiennes

were to allow it. The difficulty is that his adventure doesn't particularly need the Antarctic background, and it will not bring Antarctica to the fore-

It will, in any case, focus on the "wrong" Antarctica. For nearly everyone who hasn't been there, the Antarctic is a symbol of loveliness; but for its adventurers it stands for horror. Nearly everyone we hear of who went there did so in the spirit of the assault course, or the lab technician. They sought challenge not solace; trials not enrichment; fact not insight; flag-waving not poetry. Above all, many went in a spirit that had more to do with conquering nature than celebrating it. Sir Ranulph, having advised

a rereading of Thesiger's Arabian Sands, rightly also said that since Scott's companion himself be, even if the fates Edward Wilson - "who came

out with some marvellous things" - few have had much to about Antarctica, He added: "A recent novelist [I think he was quoting from one of his own adventure novels] said, 'It is a place for great thoughts and ideals but hardly anyone who goes there has

them any more. So it is a relief to come across the writing of Apsley Cherry-Garrard, one of Scott's expeditioneers for the fatal 1910-1913 journey and widely regarded as one of the continent's few readable chroniclers. "Polar exploration", he wrote, "is at once the cleanest and most isolated way of having a bad time which has been devised". He went on to say that Antarctica is "more lonely than London, more secluded

We outsiders suspect or believe that there is a spiritual

dimension to wilderness, and perhaps especially to Antarctica. Antarctica is the Great Other, the uncorrupted and perhaps incorruptible last outpost of innocence. It is a sanctuary. Its very cold is purifying.

It is not surprising that explorers - the people who have actually opened up wilderness in fact and imagination - tend to be muscular and matter-of-factish men rather than poets or gurus, or that when they are these last, they tend to be misanthropes. Liking solitude on an Antarctic scale would hardly come easily to the ordinarily gregarious. Scott's own writing makes

several of the principal points.
"Great God! This is an awful place," he wrote in the last days, and the remark sticks because it is profane, religious, frightened, condemnatory and celebratory all at once. For

both poles, indeed, gave rise to such fierce competitiveness hetween individuals and nations that it is surprising that any dignity remains to the business at all. So much for the kindlier verities that the contemplation of Mother Earth is supposed to induce.

Scott, one feels, strained to avoid feeling competitive when constantly taunted by the knowledge that Amundsen was engaged in the race in a rather less gentlemanly way (at any rate, a less British way). Scott didn't want the enterprise reduced to a sporting wager, while for Ranulph Flennes, as competitive as any who has ever gone South, it can't be much else. Indeed, the pursuit because it spared the early expeditions the charge of mere adventurism, mere (ingoism, mere competition. Sponsorship was necessary from the start: commercialism and vulgarity were never far away. Now, raising money for charity alone raises Fiennes' work above being Gladiators-in-an-Icchox.

Much of Antarctica's short uman history makes one feel that the right thing would be to leave it alone, so that it can regain its value as solitude. I don't mean that Fiennes is at serious risk of damaging the place. As he says: "Amundsen, Scott and Shackleton were the equivalent of Thesiger." To them go the blame and the fame of the first defilement. "I sort of pass the buck backwards to them," says Figures.

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Still, Thesiger may be right in his belief that even writing about trips within wilderness defiles it: one should ideally be content merely just to be there. Wilderness, after all, can not only lose its virginity but once - it can lose it at a touch, at a

There is however a view of Antarctica's usefulness to people that might allow and explain the Fiennes enterprise. In his 1986 book *Ice: A Journe*y to Antarctica, Stephen J Pyne noted: "Its greatest asset is not any resource it possesses but the stripped and reradiated revelations it makes about those who stare into it." It is a mirror. It can be my sanctuary and your assault course.

Sir Ranulph is unlikely to discover, or say, anything new about Antarctica. But we will read his account of his journey because we are interested in him, not in the place where he tested himself.

Antarctica will keep its secrets, and reveal things about

Artist vs critic: a play without direction

t was one of the saddest, most inept exhibitions of rage that it has been this critic's misfortune to witness. When Michael Bogdanov perunded the New Statesman to lend him two pages of the cur-rent issue in which to vent his spleen against the critics who mauled his production of Faust. hopes were high. Bogdanov. director of such great movies as The Last Picture Show but popularly known among London critics as "the Bodger" for the uneven quality of his theatrical work, had every advantage - no terrifyingly tight deadline. plenty of space, and above all, the priceless asset of genuine rage. But he went and blew it.

First gaffe - an opening paragraph dripping with self-pity. Directing is a knnchy affair," he sniffes, "Six months of tortucus preparation can go up in smoke ma couple of bours." Boo hoo. But this was meant to be a bexing match, not a weepic.

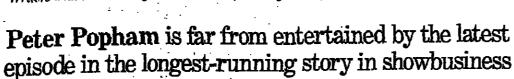
Second howler - having hearn well trailed on the cover Michael Hogdanov beats up kie theatre critics"). Bogdanov hizacrely confounds expectations by turning critic himself, berating "the anal, pedantic obsession of Peter Stein... the embarrasing naivele of Peter Brook's Hamkr..." If he's so happy disting it out one is obliged to sak, what problem does he have with taking it." Bogdanov's final self-inflicted upper cut consists in to gains mobust a tues gained











disagreeable adjectives to by a sense of taste", as someone unless you happen to be on the describe the critic he hates most - "vicious, vituperative, vitriolie, objectionable, abusive, arrogant", etc etc - but declining to name him. He thereby allows his presumed target, Charles Spencer, theatre critic of the Daily Telegraph, to deliver a single knockout punch the word 'cowardly' - and

raise his arms in victory. such encounters. The war of the artist and the critic is as old as self-expression itself, but it has always been an unfair fight.

of hiases held loosely together

This is the usual outcome of The writer and his actors may command the action on later, 20 years older, haggard stage, but as soon as the house lights go up, the critic, "a bunch and broken with suffering. Oh, very good, very droll -

put it, takes the floor and holds it for as long as he likes. "His style is chaos, illuminated by flashes of lightning. As a writer, he has mastered everything except language; as a novelist, he can do everything except tell a story; as an artist, he is everything except articulate." (Oscar Wilde on George Meredith). "I didn't like the play, but then I saw it under adverse conditions - the curtain was up," said Groucho Marx. Dorothy Parker on Tolstoy's Redemption: "I went into the theatre a comparatively young woman, and I staggered out of it three hours

wrong end of it. If you are Stephen Fry and Nicholas de Jongh has described your performance as "Stephen Fry does his usual Stephen Fry impersonation of a superior man-servant" - pretty mild stuff - you will fice the country for six months as the only alternative to suicide. But the more robust reaction is to seek revenge. The way you get it depends

very much on the sort of per-son you are. Bogdanov's response clearly shows he is a closet man of letters, though the New Statesman piece will not have advanced his literary reputation much. Steven Berkoff, on the other hand, takes a different approach, as

when he came up to ex-Guardian theatre critic Nicholas de Jongh in a restaurant and said, "Hello, Nicholas - I am going to kill you." When de Jongh tried to make a joke of it, Berkoff said, "No, you don't understand; I am going to kill you." So far, however, de Joneh remains alive.

For some reason, Guardian critics seem particularly vulnerable to personal assault. Michael Billington was biffed about the head by David Storey after Billington labelled his play Mother's Day "a stinker". Opera critic Tom Sutteliffe got a glass of red wine in the face from a furious soprano, and de Jough was once doused in ginger beer by

"lorry-driving lesbian." It is tempting to wring hands and conclude that the triviality

of the age has reduced both critics and the artists they lambast to thugs - tempting, but wildly wrong. Back in the 1950s, Ken-neth Tynan's elegant put-down of the absurdist playwright Eugene Ionesco may have stimulated a wonderfully unEnglish debate involving some of the most superb intellects in the land and going on for weeks. But it was in the same decade that John Osborne formed what he called the British Playwrights' Mafia, whose object was beating up critics (though they never did more than fire off rude postcards). So what can the luckless

artist do? Perhaps the only satisfactory response is to drag the offending individual out of the auditorium and stick him on the stage. It's an old trick -Aristophanes did it to both Euripides and Aeschylus, and Plato went and did it to Aristophanes. Some years later, George Lucas did it to the terrifying New York film critic Pauline Kael, naming the villain in Star Wars General Kael. Over here, Simon Gray named the murder victims in his TV play Old Flames Wardle, Shulman, Nightingale and Coveney, after the theatre critics. It doesn't stop the bastards having the last word. But it's the closest the playwright's going to get to sticking pins in a voodoo doll.

Oxfam Save lives in **Central Africa**

Scott, it is also an unusually

unfactual description. In most

other bits of Scon's Last Exped-

ition, Antarctica asserts itself as

a scientific and logistical prob-

lem, and in flat prose. It

answers technical questions,

inflicts suffering, invites sacri-

fice, snatches the lives of good

Englishmen.
The "last unspoiled conti-

nent" inspired heroism in

Scott. Icy it might be, but it was

chivalric, too. Yet the act of

sarily bring out the best in

people. The exploration of

exploration does not neces-

Up to one million people in Eastern Zaire are dying from starvation and disease. Some refugees have been able to flee into Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, and Tanzania. Oxfam can help them.

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Joseph Bernardin

death surprised few of the millions of Americans who had shared his illness since June 1995. It was then that the prelate announced he had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and would undergo surgery.

The 27th US bishop to be appointed cardinal since 1875 and the first Italian-American to head a major diocese, at the time of his death Bernardin was the senior active American prelate among the country's more than 350 bishops. Nationally, Bernardin strong-

ly influenced Catholic teaching on pro-life issues including nuclear weapons, the pursuit of peace and abortion. As a national administrator, he supervised the reorganisation of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and was attempting to fine-tune the conference even more at the time of his death. He was always viewed as a consensus-builder, a problem solver. He had progressive instincts but they were tempered with a burning desire to main-tain a clear sense of unity with the Vatican under Pope John Paul II, known for its retrenchment into pre-Vatican Council theology and

Bernardin was born in 1928 in Columbia. South Carolina, a city less than 2 per cent Catholic. His parents were from the village of Topadico in the valley of Primiero, located in the Dolomite mountains of northern Italy.

He attended both Catholic and public elementary schools, public high school and, for one year, the University of South Carolina, where he was enrolled to study medicine. Encouraged by classmates, he entered and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy in 1948. In 1952, at Catholic University in Washington DC, he completed a Master of Arts in

On 26 April 1952 he was ordained for the diocese of

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin's Charleston, assigned to a parish and to a teaching position at a local high school. Within two years he moved to the Charleston chancery.

Bernardin became a philo-sophical and political disciple of Bishop Paul Hallinan, In 1962, John XXIII appointed Hallinan as the first archbishop of Atlanta. Four years later, Bernardin followed him there as an auxiliary bishop. He was only 38 and the youngest bishop in the country.

By 1968, Bernardin was

named general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and served in that position until 1972, when he was named Archbishop of Cincinnati. He was elected to a three-year term as president of the Bishops' Conference in 1974-77. In 1982, he became Archbishop of Chicago and was made a cardinal the following year.
Not long afterwards he in-

troduced the concept of the Consistent Ethic of Life, or the "seamless garment", as it became known popularly, into the Catholic vocabulary, giving speeches at leading Catholic universities to explain his thought. The "seamless garment" metaphor, though not fully developed, basically holds that all life is sacred. It embraces ecological issues, spousal and sexual abuse, mercy killing, capital punishment - all the issues concerning life.

In 1983, he chaired a committee that released the pastoral letter "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response". It took issue with some US nuclear weapons policies, but offered a conditional approval of the American nuclear arsenal. The pastoral called for a bilateral halt in the development and deployment of new nuclear weapons, and was an upset for the Reagan

During the mid-1980s the issue of priest sexual abuse of minors became widespread in



The 'seamless garment': Bernardin, left, at a meeting with the Pope in Rome in September

the United States. Bernardin himself became entrapped in the web of abuse charges in 1993 when a former Cincinnati seminarian, Steven Cook, made accusations about Bernardin. The charge devastated the cardinal. He called it the most painful experience of his life more painful than coming to terms with his cancer diagnosis. "Everyone can get cancer. It's natural. But being accused of sex abuse can destroy your credibility," he said.

By February 1994, Cook had recanted and Bernardin had been vindicated. Bernardia travelled to Philadelphia to pray with his accuser and forgave him just before Cook's death from Aids.

Sensing his own days limited and the Church divided, Bernardin decided to undertake what he called the Common Ground Project. In August 1996, he released a statement titled "Called to be Catholic: Church in a Time of Peril", calling for open dialogue. The cardinal's announcement of the project was met with much criticism from his fellow bishops. Cardinals Law (Boston), Hickey (Washington), Maida (Detroit) and Bevilacqua (Philadelphia) issued strong statements that made it clear that dialogue had no place in a church which dispensed truth

unilaterally. Bernardin was hurt,

but continued with his efforts.

On 9 September Bernardin

was one of 11 prominent Americans to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest award the government could bestow on a non-military citizen. President Clinton called the cardinal "one of our nation's most beloved men and one of Catholicism's great leaders."

Bernardin lived with the hope that his cancer would stay in remission, but he was always preparing for bad news. A weakened Bernardin, who thrived so much in the public eve, stayed in seclusion during the last two weeks of his life, seeing few people. During his last day, he spoke by telephone with Pope John Paul II and President Bill Clinton, who offered their prayers, while his sis-

ter and friends sat and prayed at his bedside.

Much of Bernardin's final months were spent comforting other terminally ill cancer patients. During his hospitalisation he had come to know other pa-tients. "I felt like a priest again," he said. He clearly enjoyed his new ministry. Within months, he found himself corresponding with more than 600 other cancer patients.

Joseph Bernardin, priest: born Columbia, South Carolina 2 April 1928; ordained priest 1952; Archbishop of Cincinnati 1972 82; Archbishop of Chicago 1982-96; created Cardinal 1983; died



Chicago 14 November 1996.

matic soprate Kressyn: dra Photograph: Photofest

Show Business 1973, Golden Awards for Outstanding Acting and Lifetime Achievement, Drama Desk Award, 40 years of Yiddish Radio. She is survived by her husband, Seymour Rechtzeit, who is President of the Hebrew Actors Union in America.

Betty Gathergood

charm, courtesy, knowledge, enterprise and efficiency. helped breathe a new vigour into the enterprise.

Her appointment as curator of the only still-standing residence of Dr Johnson in the City of London was the more remarkable in that she was of the third generation of her family to fill the post. When the house, which is now run as a charitable trust, was first opened to the public in 1912, it was Betty's grandmother, Isabeila Dyble, who moved into the quaint little curator's cottage alongside, which had been specially built for the purpose.

As a young man, Cecil Harmsworth MP (later Baron Harmsworth) often used to walk through Gough Square. tucked away behind Fleet Street, and was appalled to dis-cover that No 17, where Samuel Johnson compiled his English dictionary, and where his beloved wife Tetry had died, was scheduled for demolition.

Against the advice of his brothers, the press barons Lords Northcliffe and Rothermere, he bought the freehold and engaged the architect Arthur Burr to supervise the restoration. When the work was near completion the problem arose of who was to take charge of the house. It was Burr who recommended Isabella

Dyble to Harmsworth.

During the First World War. Isabella Dyble's daughter, and Betty's mother, Phyllis Rowell, emigrated to the United States with her young husband, an en-gineer, but their new life together was short-lived. Her husband died of leukaemia when Betty was only three, and Phyllis Rowell returned to England in 1919 to live with her

parents in Gough Square. Thus it was that as a young child Betty had a unique play-ground. She kept her dolls' house in the sizeable powder closet (where the ladies and gentlemen of the time had their wigs powdered) on the ground floor. Her favourite reading spot was one of the low-slung window-sills in the same room.

Once, aged about five, she was sitting there, deep in Peter Pan, and was asked by a visiting gentleman whether she liked the book. She replied that she did, but thought that whoever wrote it didn't know much about mothers. Mrs Darling would surely never have shut the window so that Peter could not get back into his home. The man replied that he thought it wasn't Mrs Darling's fault, but that of Nana, the dog. Mrs Rowell overheard the connation since the man was Sir James Barrie himself. Barrie, of course, was highly amused.

Phyllis Rowell took over the

custodianship of Johnson's House in the 1920s. During the Second World War, during which the house was nearly destrayed by enemy action three times, she kept it open to the public in conditions many would not have tolerated. She also made the house into a haven for members of the Auxiliary Firemen, those brave volunteers who put out so many City fires started by incendiary bombs. With Lord Harmsworth's permission, and with the help of donations from friends and City firms, Mrs Rowell and her daughter gathered chairs, couches, beds and matresses so that the firemen could have a place to rest, sleep, eat

Betty Gathergood became curator of Dr Johnson's House at the age of 77, and with her

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give musical evenings.

Betty fell in love with one of these firemen, Edward Gathergood. They were married in 1942 and beld their reception in Johnson's House. Ien years later the christening party for her son, and only child, John

Anthony, was also held there. On Mrs Rowell's retirement in 1962, Margaret Elica became custodian until her unexpected death in 1993. It was then that the present Lord Harmsworth, grandson of the first Baron, on behalf of the trustees and governors of Dr Johnson's House Trust, invited Betty Gathergood, now a wid-ow and grandmother, to take over the rems. The start of her curatorship

was something of a baptism of fire. As a result of extensive huilding work next door, the rustodian's cottage subsided by a few millimetres, causing deep internal cracking. There was dust and disruption everywhere. In August 1994 a torrential downpour resulted in serious flood damage to one serious rivor terninge to one side of Dr Johnson's House not long after a generous grant from the Corporation of Lon-don had allowed for a major refurbishment of the interior.

All this Gathergood bare with fortitude, patience and good-humour, and was re-warded with some memorable occasions. In 1993 she cohosted a reception for the Prime Minister, John Major, when he opened an exhibition



Reporting held to the house. On 18 February. This year the trustees and getternors held a surprise 80th birthday party for Betty Gathergood in the house

Once the dust had settled she was able to devote more of had time to the revitalisation of the house notably in encouraging group tours, giving talks and lectures to interested patties. and setting in motion a much

needed cataloguing of the library.
During the First World War. problems, she would turn to Samuel Johnson's prayers or dictionary, and "my old man" as she called him. "would always solve them for me". Phyth Rowell, in her turn, became a mine of information about Dr Johnson and his period. Betty Gathergood inherited her mother's and grandmother's devotion to him. Right up until the last she so enthusiastically bent the ear of the doctor who attended her with tales about the house's most famous inhabitant that he was heard to comment that he had better go and brush up on his knowledge.

Retha Phyllis Rowell curator born 18 February 1916; married 1942 Edward Gathergood (deceased: one son); died 25 September 1996.

Madeleine Harmsworth

Miriam Kressyn

Miriam Kressyn was the First Lady of the Yiddish theatre in

She was born in Bialystok, Russia, one of seven children, into a family of slender, even impoverished means; her background was not a happy one as Jews were forced to live a very restricted life and education was not for those without funds. Miriam's mother was quick to recognise her daughter's keen intelligence and paid for her tuition by selling a feather bed. By the time she arrived in Boston, Massachusetts. in 1925, Mirjam was fluent in six languages.

She possessed a natural singing voice, and it was suggested that she take singing lessons, but the cost of 50 cents per lesson was more than the family could afford. When a member of a visiting Yiddish Theatre company heard her singing at a local club, she was offered a place in the chorus

sic School before winning first prize in an audition at a local radio station - a grant of \$7,500 for study at the New England Conservatory.

Her entry into the professional Yiddish theatre seemed a natural progression, and she was soon engaged to play the title-role of the famous folkopera Shulamith - a junior version with all the participants under 18. Her love of Yiddish theatre meant that she could no longer study at the Conservatory as it was forbidden for students to undertake professional

engagements. Her voice had now developed into a strong dramatic soprano which, combined with her rare beauty, great acting talent and a datteing ability which bordered on the acrobatic (she was able to do a backward bend and nick up a rose from the stage with

and saved her meagre earnings her teeth), ensured her place as chose Benzion Witler to play the then studied piano and voice at starred in many great musicals a runaway success. starred with Michael Michaelesko, Menasha Skulnik and Seymour Rechtzeit, who became her husband and lifelong partner. Together they toured the world, appearing wherever there was a Yiddish theatre while remaining stars of the New York stage.

After many years as a leading lady in the musical theatre, she was invited to join Maurice Schwartz in his Yiddish Arts Theatre, a transition which she made with charm and dignity, playing leading roles in all the classic repertoire. A further diversion in her career came in the late 1940s when she was asked to play the lead in Philip Vordan's Anna Lucasta, a Broadway hit being performed by an all-negro cast. Her managers convinced her that the play would work in Yiddish. Kressyn

to buy a second-hand piano. She a leading performer. She romantic lead and the play was

nuspand. Seymour. joined her in a new venture when they were approached to do radio commercials - on the theme of "Show Business Personalities". They worked for two years promoting Campbell's Soups and for the next 40 years for Maxwell House Coffee, three times weekly. Miriam Kressyn wrote the scripts and her talent as a writer came into its own when she began writing lyrics.

translating and adapting plays. In the 1960s she became Professor of Yiddish at Queens College, New York, where she not only taught the language but directed Yiddish plays. Many of the students became lifelong friends - indeed, one of them. later ordained as a rabbi, was with her until the final moments of her life.

The New York radio station WEVD features a Yiddish hour each Sunday morning and Miriam was allotted half an hour of the programme to relay world news giving her own perun comments with particular slant on items of Jewish interest. She continued this function until she was hospitalised two months before her death. Some 10 years ago, Kressyn

had to undergo a serious operation, the result of which robbed her of the use of her right arm. Undeterred, she continued to write scripts, essays and lyrics having taught herself to type with her left hand on her lish and Yiddish keyboards. A tireless worker for charitable causes, she was instrumental in raising vast sums of money for Fight For Sight, an organisation that helps people with impaired vision, encouraging such stars as Bob Hope and Sammy Davis Inr to par-

ticipate in her radio appeals.

Miriam Kressyn was the re-

cipient of many awards such as

Bernard Mendelovitch Miriam Kressyn, actress: born Bialystok, Russia 4 March 1912; married Seymour Rechtzeit; died

New York 28 October 1996.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

LACZKO-SCHROEDER: To Tina and Norbert on 3 October, a baby daugh-ter, Mirabel Hing-Ling, a sister for

DEATHS

ROSENTHAL: On 14 November, in Cambridge, Elizabeth Charlotte, belowed wife of the late Dr Erwin LJ. Rosenthal and mother of Tom and Miriam. Funeral private, memorial gathering to be held in the new year.

ements for Gazette BIRTHS Annongements for Capette BIKLHS,
MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births,
Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in
Memorlam) should be sent in writing
to the Gazette Editor, The Independent,
I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Loadon E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293
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ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS Prince Edward rodge attends the Jaid of the Bathars Cup at the Learnington Tennis Conet Cub Gilmed Jo the Swaper-Uentenary Dinner in the Town Hall. Royal Learnington Spa, Warnelesbre, Princeps Alexanders redain attends a consent of Storage's Chapte, Window Cashe, to be great by the Orthestra and Chart of St. John's Smath Square with the Chory of the Chapte, in add of M George's Clause School.

Changing of the Guard
TODA's The Homehold Cavalry Mounted Regment separate the Queen's List Count at Herer
Causels, I lam, Lu Battafase Weish Guards
mounts the Queen's Guard, at Bactinghaps
Palace, II James, Dand provided by the Secte
Guards TOMOSROW: The Homehold Cavalry
Mounted Regards mounts the Cavalry
Mounted Regards mounts the Cavalry

Forthcoming marriages Mr P. L Carr

and Miss C. R. Morton The engagement is announced between Philip, younger son of Mr and Mrs Douglas Carr, of Chobbam, Surrey, and Camilla, youngest daughter of Brigadier and Mrs Peter Morton.

of West Wittering. West Sussex.

Birthdays

TODAY: Professor Chinua Achebe, novelist, poet and educationist. 66: Mr Peter Ainsworth MP. 40; Mr Michael Billington, author and broadcaster, 57: Miss Lisa Bonet, ac-tress, 29; Mr Frank Bruno, boxer, 35; Mr William Comments and Mr. 1885. Mr Willie Carson, jockey, 54; Mr Tony de Leeuw, composer, 70; Sir John Hanson, Director-General, British Council, 58; Sir Colin Marshall. Chairman and Chief Executive British Airways, 63: Miss Joanna Pettet, actress, 52; Mr Griff Rhys Jones, actor and writer, 43: Sir Giles Shaw MP, 65; Mr John Stenhouse, former insurance broker, SS: Canon Herbert Stuart, Canon Emeritus, Lincoln Cathedral, 70; Sir Edward Tomkins, former diplomat, 81; Sir Magdi Yacoub, cardiothoracic surgeon, 61; Professor Michael Zander, Professor of Law, LSE, 64,

TOMORROW: Miss Lesley Abdela, founder, All-Party 300 Group for Women in Politics, 52: Sir Jeremy Beecham, solicitor, chairman, Association of Metropolitan Authorities, 52; Admiral Sir Jeremy Black, former Commander-in-Chief, Naval Home Command, 64; Mr Stephen Bragg, aeronautical engineer, 73; Mr Mal-colm Bruce MP, 52; Dr Gerald Bulmer, former Rector of Liverpool Polytechnic, 76; Lord Craigntyle, chairman, Craigntyle and Co. 73; Mr John Dobson, tenor, 66; Mr Jimmy Dunnachie MP, 66; Mr David Emmanuel, lashion designer, 41; Miss

Fenella Fielding, actress, 62; Mr Michael Freeman, consultant orthopaedic surgeon, 65; The Rev Dr Kenneth Greet, former Free Church Moderator, 78; General Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff. 8; Mr Jeremy Hanley MP, Minister of State, Foreign and Common-wealth Office, 51; Mr Colin Hayes, rainter, 77: Professor Anthony King Professor of Government, Essex University, 62; Mr Gordon Lightfoot, singer and songwriter, 58; Mr Jere-my Lloyds, cricketer, 42; Mr John Lowther, Lord-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, 73; Sir Charles Mackerras, conductor, 71; Sir Leslie Murphy, former chairman, National Enterprise Board, 81; Lord Pol-Vice Lord-Lieutenant, warth, Borders Region, 80; Mr Jonathan Ross, broadcaster, 36; The Right Rev John Satterthwaite, former Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, 71; Mr Martin Scorsese, film director, 54; Miss Debbie Thrower, broadcaster, 39; Mr James Warwick, actor, 49; Mr Auberon Waugh, journalist, 57; Mr John Wells, writer and actor, 60; Miss Joyce Wethered (Lady Heathcoat Amory), golfer, 95.

Anniversaries

TODAY: Births: Tiberius, Roman emperor, 42 BC, Sir Oswald Ernald Mosley, Fascist leader, 1896. Deaths: Perkin Warbeck, pretender to the throne, executed 1499; William Clark Gable, actor, 1960; Arthur Bowden Askey, comedian, 1983. On this day: Westminster Bridge was formally opened, 1750; the Suez Canal was formally opened at Port Said, 1869. Today is the Feast Day of St Afan, St Agnes of Assisi, St Edmund of Abingdon, St Eucherius of Lyons, St Gentrude of Helita, St Margaret of Scotland, St Mechnildis of Heifta and

TOMORROW: Births: August Fer-

dinand Mobius, astronomer and

mathematician, 1790; Field Marshal Sir Bernard Law Montgomery. first Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, 1887, Deaths: Mary I, Queen of England, 1558; Catherine 11. the Great, of Russia, 1796; François-Auguste Rodin, sculptor, 1917; Erskine Hamilton Childers, ent of Ireland, 1974. On this day: Elizabeth I acceded to the throne of England, 1558; the first meeting of the US Congress took place in Washington, 1800; the first Battle of the Somme ended, 1916. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of Saints Acisclus and Victoria, Saints Alens and Zachaeus, St Anianus or Aignan of Orleans, St Dionysius of Alexandria, St Elizabeth of Hungary, St Gregory of Tours, St Gregory the Wonderworker, St Hilda, St Hugh of Lincoln and The Martyrs of

Lectures TODAY

National Gallery: Rachel Barnes "Remembering (iii): Turner, The Fighting Temeraire'", 12pm. Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "At Home and Abroad: Constable and Bonington", 1pm. British Museum: Lorna Oakes,

1000 Miles up the Nile: the story of Amelia Edwards", 1.15pm. TOMORROW

Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, Painters Untrammelled", 2.30pm.

Dinners

Honourable Artillery Company Major A.H.S. Gabb. Squadron Commander, presided over the Annual Dinner of Il Squadron, Honourable Artillery Company, held yesterday evening in the Long Room, Armoury House, London EC1. Brigadier F.R. Viggers was the principal guest. Lt M. Murray was the

Self-interest is not the way to serve others In our modern world, tastes have splinfaith **o**reason

tered. Any one individual may identify with a wide variety of different kinds of geographical, institutional and interest-based communities at any one time. The gap between these different groups and sub-cultures can yawn widely.

This is not necessarily a bad thing. Close-knit and homogeneous communities have their limitations and frustrations as well as strengths, especially those which form in a defensive way over and against a threat from other people or mainstream society. I much prefer churches which are outward-looking and see themselves as part of the society to which they belong rather than inward-looking communities, seeing themselves as separate and maintaining their own purity by keeping the outside world at arm's length. More generally, we can surely find great richness in the diversity of human beings and indeed of the diversities, cultural and natural, in different parts of the country.

But diversity can bring dangers. If our society in all its diversity is not in an important sense a moral community, we are in big trouble. I do not mean that everybody should be expected to agree on all kinds of contentious moral and ethical issues - how could I be an Archbishop in the Church of England if I believed such a thing? But however complex people's different community networks may have become, it is essential that there remains a robust level of commitment to the common good. You will know that "to seek the common good" has been an injunction at the heart of the Book of Common Prayer down the centuries.

This is shared by other churches too. choices for the good of others and where The social teaching of successive Popes is inter-dependence is cherished. Discipline

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, writes this week about the importance of shared values in maintaining communities, and the part that the churches can play.

a most impressive exposition of fundamental Christian beliefs as they translate themselves into the way in which we order our society and behave towards other human beings.

In the Christian tradition, we can only fulfil ourselves as people by loving our neighbours as ourselves, by recognising the inter-dependence of individuals within the wider human society, and taking our responsibilities towards other people at least as seriously as our responsibilities towards

By far the most important place where these basic human and civic values are taught is in the family where the strong and grown-up live out their responsibilities to the young and inexperienced and weak; where children learn that the human love on which the psychological security of the child can be based involves faithfulness, reliability, self-giving as well as self-fulfilment. The family is where love is bound up with the making of moral

and love are not opposites, but allies in the common task of healthy human

nurture in a context of inter-dependence. I know that in some cases the family unit may become a prison for those subjected to abuse and tyranny. But, for the most part, it is hard to overstate the pain and hurt and psychological damage which is inflicted on people who are close to family break-up. Common sense and experience tell us that in general children need the love and guidance of both father and mother, that they are wounded by family conflict and divorce. I know that the causes of family breakdown are many and complex. But I believe they include much greater sexual licence and a philosophical tendency to place self-fulfilment and pleasurable consumption above moral responsibility to others and faithfulness to

one's family obligations. For this reason, the cult of the linds vidual" has to be challenged sharply.
During the Eighties, some versions of morality tended to equate morality with individualism. Self-interest was put forward as the way to serve others.

The churches were not alone in distrusting this assumption but they were prominent in doing so. That is why the Church of England report Faith in the Chy incorporated a fundamental challenge to laissez-faire and individualistic philosophy. It insisted upon the recognition of interdependence, and on reaching out to the large numbers of people being margin-alised and excluded from mainstream society in the deprived areas of our cities. And that is why the Roman Catholic Bishops' confident reassertion of the ceatral concept of the common good is so thoroughly welcome.

The atmosphere was recep-

rials group, jumping 17p to 236.5 in brisk trading BBA, which retired hurt after at-

tempting to barge into the Lucas Industries/Varity merg-er, and Johnson Matthey, the

metals group, were in the frame. Other candidates were Charter Consolidated and

Siemens, the German group. A bid of around 280p on Monday

was the popular guess.

Data Bank FTSE 100 3958.2 + 32.1**FTSE 250** 4409.9 + 11.0**FTSE 350** 1973.3 + 13.6 SEAQ VOLUME

Share spotlight

840m shares,

Gilts Index

38,875 bargains



Investors put cares behind them and follow Wall St Shares achieved their best gain for more than a month as aux-

Since June Cookson's shares have had a torrid time, falling icties about interest rates and from 327p. In recent weeks the the strength of sterling were submerged by New York's conagony has been compounded by a series of profit down-gradings. With the shares so weak a takeover story, particting display of confidence. Footsie climbed 32.1 points to 3,958.2 and supporting shares ularly on a Friday afternoon, was easy to get going. Said one trader: "It's just a ramp". House of Fraser, the strugwere often in exuberant form. Railtrack was on the express

line, helping the more positive mood. It led blue chips, with gling department store chain, was back in the speculative a 38p gain to 323p following its spotlight - up 9.5p to 151.5p. Once again Burton was the extive for takeover stories with pected predator. Cookson, the industrial mate-

Among the electricity distributors it was the turn of Southern Electric to get the takeover charge. It jumped 28.5p to 706.5p on suggestions it would be the next for a US strike. With Northern Electric and East Midlands Electricity already under US attack Southern is one of only three of the original 12 privatised electricity groups still free from takeover action.



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN stock market reporter of the year

The others, London Electricity, and Yorkshire Electricity, progressed with London up 20.5p to 626p and Yorkshire 7p to 735.5p. The generators were active with PowerGen, on Goldman Sachs support, up 11p at 565p and National Power, figures next

week,10p at 445p.
Waters, where bid action has been much more muted, made headway with Thames gaining 7.5p to 568.5p.

Berisford International, the

Magnet kitchens group, added 12p to 118.5p after disclosing plans to buy in part of its 5 per repeated that profits, to be announced on Friday, would be year but £370m next. "After five

£25m before exceptional costs. Limelight, a kitchens and bathrooms group, recovered from

early uncertainty to close at 182.5p against a 175p placing. Wm Cook, the engineer, surged 84.5p to 325p as Triplex Lloyd mounted a cash and shares bid which achieved a quick rejection. Triplex edged ahead 1.5p to 208.5p. Cobham. the aerospace group, continued to prosper from the Hender-son Crosthwaite investment meeting, rising a further 11.5p to 605.5p.

P&O steamed ahead 2.5p to 593p; stockbroker John Sidchanged profits of £320m this

stagnant years it is hoped that a more dynamic management style will refocus group activities, cut borrowings and introduce a growth strategy", it

Allied Domecq was little changed at 454.5p as Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull cut its forecast by £20m to £610m. Hambros lost 8.5p to 235.5p. Vulture fund Regent Pacific has abandoned its attempt to shake up the bank. It failed to

win enough support from oth-er shareholders and will, it is feared, eventually dump its 3 per cent shareholding. Manchester Utd rose 8p to 538p, still reflecting the possible pay-as-you-view bonanza. There was also, once again, suggestions that takeover action could be near. Tottenham Hotspur scored a 27.5p gain to

group, fell a further op to 73.5p after a profits warning.

But Dawson, the newspaper distributor, produced a profit upgrade. It said results due to 130p, reflecting Invesco's next month will "be well ahead" of market estimates. It had been expected to produce £7.5m; around £9m is now the target. The shares, a founder

member of AIM at 475p. jumped 237.5p to 1,912.5p. Eidos, the computer group, rose 40p to 745p as share-holders approved its ADR listing. Last month ABN Amro Hoare Govett said the company had built a computer games business worth 1,200p a share, suggesting profits of £9m this year and £14.5m next.

CRT, a recruitment and training company, edged ahead 2p to 275.5p. It has acquired Link-Up Services, a recruitment business, for £6m. More takeovers are signalled. In August Larry Ellison, chief mer junk bond king Michael Milken acquired control.

Lazard Smaller Equities, an investment trust, firmed arrival. The trust, which has climbed from 106p since the spring, will change its name to Invesco Enterprise and policy. The change, in the normally staid world of investment trusts, is an embarrassment for the Lazard investment operation. In what amounted to a share-

Taking Stock

Barasford arrived on AIM at 7p. It is a similar opera-tion to Gander, another AIM company which specialises in upmarket residential properties. Barasford's flotation raised £4m at 6p 2 share. It intends to adopt an aggressive acquisition policy. Gan-der is 12.5p against an 8p

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'Whatever the deal, I only pay £1

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business & city

Railtrack shares soar on huge profits leap

Michael Harrison

Shares in Railtrack soared more than 10 per cent yesterday as the newly privatised company reported a huge leap in profits helped by windfall property gains and unveiled new plans to tackle the problem of leaves on

In its first set of results since the company was floated in May, Railtrack, the owner of the country's railway track, sig-

nalling and stations announced a 75 per cent rise in profits to £173m in the half year to the end of September. A £23m profit from the disposal of properties in Shepherds Bush, west London, Oxford and Bradford, contributed to the increase.

Railtrack shares roared ahead on the announcement. closing 38p higher at 323p - a gain of 13 per cent. They were sold by the Government at 200p six months ago.

The increase in pre-tax prof-its was flattered by a sharp delays caused by freight train drop in interest charges following the Government's agreement to write off more than half Railtrack's £1.7bn debt. Operating profits rose by a more

modest 12 per cent to £169m. The improvement came despite an increase in operating costs from £988m to £1.03bn and a marked deterioration in the performance of its freight service customers. Figures re-

operators were 75 per cent higher rose in September this year compared with the same month last year.

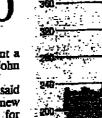
"Our freight customers have to do rather better, to put it frankly," said John Edmonds. Railtrack's chief executive. However, he said that pas-

senger train delays were down by 17 per cent while delays attributable directly to Railtrack

improvement in performance enabled Railtrack to net profit of £4m in the half year from access charge supplements to train operating companies. It expects the figure for the year to be £9m.

Railtrack is in negotiations with the infrastructure maintenance companies that repair and service the rail network to agree new cost saving targets for next financial year. Railtrack has been told to achieve efficiency year by the Rail Regulator John

Meanwhile the company said that it was testing out a new German-designed system for eradicating the problem of leaves on the line. The Geismer system involves removing the leaf mulch from rail lines using a high pressure water cannon. At present, Railtrack tackles the problem by applying a gravel-like paste to the tracks to im-



prove traction The system has been used successfully in France and Sweden. The trials, custing £250,000, are taking place in the South-west and East Anglia.

KKR strete priest, perios takes on LVMH in battle

Nigel Cope

Louis Vuitton Mact Hennessy, the luxury goods retailer. Was facing a bid battle for duty-free group DFS vesterday when it emerged that US buyout spe-cialist Kohlberg Kravis Roberts is also interested in making an

However, LVMH said KKR's bid was conditional on LVMH dropping its deal which was announced last month. A spokes-man in France said that the company was confident the deal would go through. KKR in the UK declined to comment.

A source close to LVMH who had seen KKR's offer said: The KKR initiative is conditional on LVMH and the vendors renouncing their contract of the first of October. But both parties have let it be known that they have no intention of doing so." No price has yet been attached to the KKR offer.

LVMH last month agreed to pay \$2,47bn (£1,48bn) for a 55 a per cent stake in San Francisco-based DFS, one of the world's largest operators duty-free outlets.

The possibility of a bid bartle caused a sharp drop in LVMH shares in early trading yesterday though they steadied later. "If it's going to be a war it could cost a lot of money. one dealer said.

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The battle for DFS has already been fraught with con-troversy. LVMH acquired its stake from two of the group's four controlling shareholders. Charles Feeny and Alan M Parker. But the transaction angered Robert Miller, the largest shareholder with a 38.75 per cent stake and the fourth shareholder, Anthony Pilaro. They contend that in agreeing to sell their stakes to LVMH, the other two shareholders acted con-

on BMW to hame which teplacement models would be
travy to a 1991 pack
the Miles camp hamasked
Council of Birmingham City Council the issue and has asked the commercial court in New York to suspend the LVMH deal until a solution can be found. DFS has more than 180

stores and sales of \$3bn. LVMH presence in the Asia Pacific region and emerging markets which it saw as key areas for growth. The deal would help the group secure distribution for its branded luggage and cham-pagne in these increasingly af-fluent economies.

LVMH has said it would retain DFS's existing management and that the chain would be managed independently of its other businesses which include Moet & Chandon champagnes. Hennessey cognacs. Christian Dior perfumes and Louis Vuitton designer luggage.

Sweetener wins £400m BMW plant for UK

Michael Harrison

The German car maker BMW is to build a £400m engine plant in the West Midlands after the Government offered a lastminute sweetener in the form of increased grant aid for the

The plant at Hams Hill in Warwickshire, will receive £40m-£45m in government support and will safeguard 1,500 jobs at BMW's Rover subsidiary and 5,000 more in the

component supply industry.

Output from the plant, which is being built on the site of an old power station, will be 500,000 engines a year split evenly between BMW and Rover cars.

The breakthrough in the aid negotiations came on Thursday night after the BMW chairman, Berndt Pieschetsrieder. flew into London for a final round of talks with Ian Lang. President of the Board of Trade.

Mr Lang agreed to increase the amount of regional selective assistance on offer to £22.5m. A similar amount is being provided in the form of training grants and infrastructure funding from English Partnerships.

The level of support compares with the £61m in grants that Ford received to build a new Jaguar car plant in Coventry. The Department of Trade and Industry initially agreed to provide £48m in regional selective assistance, subsequently cut to

Car makers will increasingly have to shift their sights towards Eastern Europe as growth in the traditionally lucrative Western markets beads towards saturation point, a survey said yesterday. The research, from the IFO economic institute, predicts that European car ownership will grow by an average of 1.8 per cent a year until 2005, increasing the number of cars on the roads from 168.5 million to 205 million. The growth rate in East Europe will

£40m by the European Commission. Mr Lang said, however, that he did not anticipate any objections from Brussels to this latest aid package.

average 4.3 per cent, West Europe by just 1.6 per cent.

Austria, where BMW aiready has a number of engine plants, had indicated that it would provide up to £80m in aid but Dr Walter Hasselkus, Rover's chief executive, said Britain had won BMW's vote on technical, com-

mercial and cost grounds. He denied that BMW had threatened to take the project clsewhere if the Government failed to provide a specific amount of support, but he said negotiations had been "hardheaded" throughout.

"We are not a charity organisation or a Sunday school. We had to get the best that could be granted. What we asked for, expected and got was a fair deal.
It was not horsetrading."
The new engine plant forms part of BMW's plan to invest

£3bn in Rover by the turn of the century and completely overhaul its model range. The German car maker has given the green light for Rover to develop a new Mini for the next century, which will be produced in volumes of up to 200,000 a year and a new small Land Rover will appear next year.

The plant will produce 1.6 to 2 litre petrol engines for the relacement models for the Rover 600 and 800 ranges and also for

Rover's existing engine plant at Longbridge in Birmingham,

Sir Desmond Pitcher, chair-

man of United Utilities, richly

deserves his epithet as 'King of

the Fat Cats', according to a

report on bonus schemes pub-

The controversial boss of

Britain's first multi-utility is

singled out in a survey of more

than 80 new long-term incentive

plans (L-Tips) carried out by Manifest, the proxy voting and

Patrick Tocher

lished yesterday.



which produces 340,000 A series and K series engines a year, will be scaled back a workers and production are shifted to the new plant. But Dr Hasselkus said Rover would continue to build engines at Longbridge in

the longer term.

BMW's plan is to raise Rover's production from 500,000 cars and Land Rovers a year now to 750,000 by the turn

Tips schemes limit the size of

awards to between 50-100 per

cent of basic salary. However, it notes that United Utilities' in-

centive plan potentially awards

its highest paid director up to

137 per cent of his salary.

"When compared to the salary of the highest-paid

director it can be seen why

there was some press coverage of the United Utilities scheme

The engine for the new Mini will come from a plant that BMW is to build in partnership with Chrysler in South America, probably in Brazil. The 85-acre site at Hams

Hill was owned by the electricgenerator PowerGen.

BMW's investment in the West Midlands follows expan- also welcomed the investment. add to the region's status.

Sir Desmond branded 'King of the Fat Cats'

The scale of the awards at

companies such as United Util-

ities has provoked heated po-

litical debate because the sums

involved could match or even

exceed amounts paid under

share-option schemes discred-

ited in the Greenbury report on

scheme approved at a stormy

meeting of investors this sum-

Under the United Utilities'

excessive boardroom pay.

research agency. The survey over the summer, the report found that the majority of L said.

over the summer, the report found that the majority of L said.

over the summer, the report found that the majority of L said.

sion plans by Nissan at Sunderland and Vauxhall at Ellesmere Port in the last few months and is a further vote of confidence in the British car

Mr Lang said: "It is a vitally merator PowerGen. important strategic investment sign work on the Multings and one which somethis the and site preparation will begin important elect the WK in the motor industry."
Unions and local councils

a short-term bonus of up to 40

per cent of his pay and a long-

term bonus of up to 87.5 per

cent of salary.

Manifest also criticised the

high level of apathy among in-

stitutional investors about the

issue of excessive boardroom

pay. It contacted 66 large UK

companies which asked their

shareholders to approve L-Tip

or similar incentive schemes at

Tony Woodley, national secretary of the Transport and General Workers said it was "great news for the UK and for the future of manufacturing in the West Midlands". But he called on BMW to name which re-

of Birmingham City Council, said the engine plant would

It found that just under 60 per cent of shareholders failed to

register a vote on a key corpo-

rate governance issue. "This low level of voting shows that share-holders are failing to make

their views known to company

management about their L-

Tips," said Adam Kay, who analysed the results of the

survey for manifest.

this year.

William Cook spurns £58m bid

John Willcock

William Cook rejected a £58m takeover bid launched by rival UK engineering group Triplex Lloyd yesterday. It accused Triplex of uying to get Cook on the cheap". Cook's shares shot up 85p to

325.5p before closing at 325p. to stand 13p above the 312p value of the cash and share bid. Triplex's takeover terms imply a historic exit multiple of just over 10 times Cook's 1994-95 earnings.
The offer is seven new Triplex

shares and £13.50 for every nine Cook shares. Shareholders will also be entitled to retain the interim dividend of 2.75p a share announced recently by Cook. There is a 295p-pershare cash alternative.

Colin Cook, chairman of car parts maker Triplex and unrelated to the target's controlling family members, said he was prepared for a "long and acrimonious" battle for the Sheff-ield-based specialist castings

"We feel it's a very fair price given Cook's poor rating and re-cent track record," said Mr Cook. But Andrew Cook, chairman of William Cook, said: licited and unwelcome. No at-

He added: "Triplex Lloyd is seeking to gain control of William Cook on the cheap ... They may need us: we do not need them. We have no intention of letting Triplex Lloyd get hold of William Cook in this opportunistic manner."

Analysts, however, admire the management trio that has revived Triplex's fortunes, consisting of Colin Cook, chairman Graham Lockyer, chief executive, and Boh Mitchell, finance director. They are less im-pressed by Cook's management, which they think has lost its ambition to grow, particularly through overseas sales.

They point to Cook's two share buy-backs, 10 per cent in November 1995 and 5.5 per cent this October, as an admission that the company had ceased to

John Dean, an analyst with

only way Triplex would be able to get William Cook would be through a hostile bid. Triplex's Mr Cook said: "We would love to be able to agree a recommended deal, but I

don't think that [Andrew Cook]

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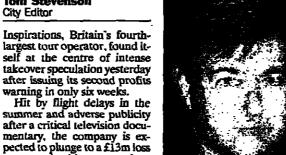
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Second Inspirations warning Tom Stevenson



INTEREST RATES

Boad Tields

expectations:



Vic Fatah, Inspirations' chief executive, said yesterday that results for the year to September would be "substantially below market expectations". Those expectations had already been reined in to only break-even, following the warning at the beginning of October that the company had been hit by flight delays following the failure of its engineering supplier, a sub-sidiary of British Airways, to

meet agreed schedules. Inspirations said the cost of the well-publicised delays was about £14m compared with its earlier estimate of about £8m. It added that it was negotiating a settlement with British Airways and had renegotiated its relationship with the engineerGatwick to service Inspirations Caledonian Airways fleet.

a repeat of the long delays to holiday flights that had pro-voked fierce criticism of the company on a Watchdog programme in September. That adverse publicity led to a slump in demand for Inspirations holidays during the month which ag-gravated an existing oversupply problem following the takeover of capacity previously sold by collapsed seat-only operator The Flight Company.

The warning from Inspira-tions is the latest blow for an industry still reeling from the unexpected decision last week by the Office of Fair Trading to launch a Monopolies Commission investigation into the trav-

French step up campaign over tsarist bonds

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

Mexander Livshits, the Russian Deputy Prime Minister, was greeted yesterday in London by the latest stage of a campaign for compensation of French holders of defaulted tsarist

This ancient historical argument has become an embarrassment for the Russians who were in London drumming up support for the country's first foreign bond issue since the 1917 revolution. It is likely to be for up to \$500m (£300m). The bondholders placed ad-

vertisements in the Financial Times warning that a 1992 agreement between France and Russia to recompense them had not been honoured, "which raises questions about [Russia's] ability to fulfill its obligations They said they had complained to the credit rating agencies that are assessing Russia's economy.

Mr Livshits acknowledged the importance of a good reception for the new Euroboad to Russia's financial standing abroad.

He said. "The purpose of en-tering this market is not a shortterm goal, it is for the long term. We want from the outset to look respectable and the cost of borrowing is a very important

But his aides rejected the request for payments on the tsarist bonds, saying it was be tween the French holders and their own government. The is sue has become bogged down because Russia is making com-terclaims against France. Britain settled for modest payments on defaulted isarist bonds in the 1980s.

With tense negotiations under way for the release of the next stage of a \$100n Interna-tional Monetary Fund loan, which has been held up because of doubts about the Russian economy. Mr Livshits refused to be precise about the amount or the interest rate. But he did reject suggestions that it would be as high as 11 per cent, a pensi-rate in dollars.

To case a serious concenty among Western investors about # Russia's potential for default, Me Livshits announced that his gov ernment had agreed to bonour the interest payments on the whole of a \$24bn domestic issue of Ministry of Finance bonds made in 1993 and held by Rus

sians. It was frozen in June. Large numbers of unissued bonds disappeared from bank vaults in Chechnya daring fighting, and the government froze the bond issue when it found it was having to pay interest on far more than should in theory have been in

Albert E Sharp, said: "On the face of it this offers William Cook shareholders a fairly nice premium, which could go a bit higher. If I was a shareholder I'd be delighted." Mr Dean said he thought the

STOCK MARKETS

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"Triplex Lloyd's offer is unsotempt was made to obtain the support of the board."

City Editor

pected to plunge to a £13m loss compared with expectations

only two months ago of an £8m Shares in Inspirations fell 6p to 73.5p as disappointment at the profits warning was tem-pered by the growing expectation that another travel firm will step in to buy the business. Minneapolis-based Carlson Travel chain in a joint venture.

Money Market Rates





has been tipped as a natural partner for Inspirations since the two already operate part of the AT Mays travel agency

ing arm so that a new dedicat-ed team would be set up at el business. CURRENCIES

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LVMH 'More than 10 years

after privatisation and deregulation, it still of the domestic

has over 90 per cent market. So its defence of monopoly has actually been a

highly successful one'

JEREMY WARNER

press comment that has greeted BT's ambitious plans to merge with MCI of the United States. To many in the press, this looks like expensive empire building an example of the folly of ambition on a grand scale. BT its shareholders and customers will all live

to regret this acquisition, is the general line.

Oddly, however, this is not the general view of the City, which with its short-term horizons and concentration on immediate shareholder value, is generally at least as alive to anything that smacks of management aggrandisement as the press. So who has got it right – the press or the City? To see that it is the City and BT you have to look at what's going on in this industry and BT's plans to adapt to and benefit from these changes

changes.
Sir Iain Vallance, chairman of BT, takes the view that 10 years from now the world of telecoms will be dominated by no more than a handful of international super carriers. That doesn't mean global hegemony for those that make the big league. Powerful national players will continue to co-exist alongside the super league, but they will be very much second division. Running in par-allel with globalisation of the industry is its commoditisation. With the cost and price of all forms of telecommunications falling like

BT points the way to the future with MCI deal What will British Telecom look like 10 a stone, the main players are going to have to expand rapidly and effectively into all commercial standpoint, it would have been kinds of value-added services to keep their failing its shareholders if this commercial standpoint, it would have been failing its shareholders if the standard of the profits rising. That means moving into media, not necessarily as a content provider but certainly as a packager of product and a method of delivery. It also means moving into wider systems integration, contracting

out and consultancy, the sort of territory occupied at present by EDS and IBM. To do this effectively, the aspiring super-carrier needs to establish a real presence in all three main trading blocks - the USA, Europe and Asia Pacific. Until comparatively recently this has not been possible. Domestic telecommunications has been the preserve of closely guarded national monopolies, or public telephone boards (PTBs). International telecoms has been governed by an exclusive network of bilateral agree-ments between individual PTBs, much like those that govern the airline industry.

Even those few markets that have introduced a degree of deregulation and liberal-isation — such as the United States — have remained largely closed to foreign competition. This is now changing rapidly and in no small measure, it is down to BT. Domestically BT still looks like an avid

defender of monopoly power. More than 10 years after privatisation and deregulation, it still has over 90 per cent of the domestic

However, the failure of competition to take off in Britain is more down to the ineptitude of competitors - the cable companies and more particularly Mercury - than any-

thing else.

What is certain is that internationally BT has been very effective in using the example of Britain's experiment in deregulated, open telecoms markets as a way of bringing about change elsewhere. Most notable of its successes is Europe. What is now happening – deregulation of European tele-coms and the privatisation of both Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom – would have been almost unthinkable six years ago. Throughout most of the 1980s BT was a whipping boy for public opinion - poor standards of service combined with apparently exces-sive profits made BT one of the most hated institutions in the land. It was not a model the rest of Europe would have wanted to adopt. Liberalisation was regarded as a ghastly American aberration which had typ-ically managed to wash up on the shores of Britain but very definitely would go no further. The reaction of other PTBs to any sug-

Over the course of the 1990s, however, BT

gestion of deregulation in the EU was

extremely hostile.

has gradually managed to bring the rest of Europe round to its way of thinking, culminating finally in the 1995 agreement to free up telecoms markets throughout the Union by 1998. BT's part in this process should not be underestimated. The lobby for change came mainly from BT. The 64,000 dollar question is whether it will actually make much difference. If the experience of Britain is anything to go by, where BT has so far managed to retain the vast bulk of the market, what is on offer in Europe may be little more than crumbs off the table.

This is where the argument comes back to MCI, which was the first of the upstart competitors to challenge AT&T's monopoly of long-distance traffic in the US. Just as Mercury has been a poor competitor for BT, MCI has proved a very effective one for AT&T Sharp marketing, buccaneering, entrepreneurial instincts, and the heavy use of litigation to push out the barriers of dereg-ulation and undermine monopoly, have made MCI into one of the US's fastest-growing companies. If deregulation has so far largely failed in providing significant competition to BT in the UK, MCI has been a powerful force in making it succeed in the US. There is no reason to believe that MCI cannot repeat in US local markets, which are in the process of being opened up to competition, what it has already achieved in long

In conjunction with MCI, BT also plans to repeat the trick in Europe, so much so that Sir Iain believes it quite possible that in 10 years BT (or Concert as it will shortly be renamed to emphasise its divorce from the old PTB tradition) will have overtaken Deutsche Telekom as Europe's largest tele-phone company. The last bits of the jigsaw are due to fall into place over the next year or so in the Asia Pacific region.

Some of this may have been possible without MCI but the two together make a much more powerful combination. For all these reasons what BT is doing in buying MCI makes obvious sense. BT's peers in the rest of Europe would dearly love to do the same thing, given the chance. But without access to capital and while their markets remain closed to competition, they cannot.

For the time being BT remains uniquely

placed ahead of the wave to exploit the opportunity opening up in these markets. Nor in truth is the MCI acquisition even much of a gamble. The deal will be mildly dilutive to BT shareholders in the early years but assuming Sir Iain's vision of the future is no idle one, that will be paid back in spades as we move into the next millennium. The press is often accused of failing to back the reasonable aims and ambitions of British business. On this occasion its critics are right. The MCI takeover will be good for BT and

Recovery in manufacturing spreads

Diane Coyle **Economics Editor**

The recovery in manufacturing has spread to eight out of the 12 UK regions, and companies in all regions expect output to rise during the next four months, according to a new

But a regional divide is reemerging as the economy picks up. Industry in the South-east, East Anglia and Celtic fringe is buoyant, while the northern regions, Midlands and Southwest remain more subdued.

In July only half the regions saw any growth in demand, but the recovery has spread during the latest quarter.
Northern Ireland, Wales and the South East have grown fastest during the past four

months, a joint report from the Confederation of British Industry and consultancy Business Strategies said yesterday. Welsh and East Anglian businesses during the latest quarter. Along Hopes of improved orders so half the regions.

expect the biggest increases in output in the near future.

These four areas - Northern Ireland, Wales, East Anglia and the South East - were generally the most buoyant surveyed. Growth in orders

confidence in the latest quarter. Orders have increased in most regions since the last survey. The three exceptions - the South-west, Yorkshire and the

A regional divide is re-emerging. as the British economy picks up

was strongest in the first three, while export demand was strongest in Northern Ireland.

The report says: "The Northem Ireland numbers are so striking there must be a possibility they are in part a temporary phenomenon." Export stronger than domestic orders. Ireland have become the most

nand in the region was much Manufacturers in Northern pessimistic, the survey found, despite the stellar performance

ginal declines. All areas expect orders to pick up during the next four months, but especially Wales and East Anglia. Levels of optimism are highest in the latter and Scotland. Planned investment is highest in Wales and the

East Midlands - saw only mar-

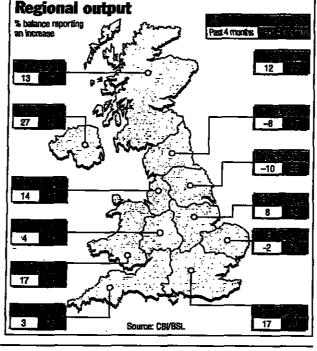
The weakest region is the North, the only one where companies expect output to fall in the next four months.

with the North, it reported one of the only drops in business selling prices have declined, and selling prices have declined, and so has business confidence.

Yorkshire and Humberside saw a fall in output and orders but firms there expect a strong bounce back. In the Southwest the past four months have been flat, but companies there too have become more optimistic about prospects. The survey implied that em-ployment in manufacturing na-

tionwide stabilised during the third quarter but could fall again in the fourth. If so, almost all regions will end 1996 with lower manufacturing employment than a year earlier. Employment last quarter fell in year-on-year terms in all

regions except Wales, Northern Ireland and the South-west. Costs have declined and price rises have been patchy. Manufacturers expect the fall in costs to continue, but hope to raise their selling prices in



General Motors strike cuts US industrial output

plants led to a sharp drop in US index was nearly 51 points Other production was subdued too, but separate figures yesterday showed a rebound in consumer confidence this month compared to last, writes

The US bond market fell in reaction to the figures but

A strike at General Motors another gain. The Dow Jones President and Republican Con- the first drop for seven months. gress-the Dow Jones index has higher at 6,363.68 by midday. ended higher every day so far Shares had already set a this month.

record every day this week, passing the 6,300 mark on Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, said yesterday Thursday. Thanks to the signs that the economy is steering a safe course combining steady growth with low inflation along with the markets' ideal

that inflation would remain low despite the low jobless rate. "I don't see signs of inflation re-

Most of it was due to lower production of GM cars and trucks, but output excluding autos and parts was 0.1 per cent down compared with the previous

Production at General Motors, the world's biggest manuigniting," he said. facturer, was down 11 per cent. The 0.5 per cent fall in inshares on Wall Street clocked up election result, a Democratic dustrial output in October was strikes in the US and Canada.

The Federal Reserve said that capacity use had fallen to 82.7 per cent, the weakest since

However, Robert Brusca at Nikko Securities said adjusting for the strike there had been only a small slide after several strong months.

"We will see a bounce back," he predicted.

month. Industrial output in Japan is

likely to grow 2.9 per cent this quarter, reaching a level 4.6 per cent higher than a year ago, according to the Ministry of In-There was some support for ternational Trade and Industry.

this view from the University of

Michigan's consumer confi-

dence indicator. It was report-

ed to have recovered to 98.9 in

November from 96.5 last

Introduction of euro could coin Bank £1bn

Jill Treanor Banking Correspondent

The Bank of England stands to gain nearly £1bn a year by joining the single European currency. In contrast, the Bundesbank, Europe's most profitable central bank, could lose out by more than £1.5bn.

France's central bank has most to gain by ditching the franc for the euro, which could make it £2.2bn better off, according to research by Central Banking, a quarterly journal.

The Bank of Italy could ben-efit to the tune of £1bn, while Portugal, Greece, Finland and Luxembourg could also be winners. All seven countries gain at the expense of Ireland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, Denden, which has most to lose by taking part in monetary union.

The research is based on the assumption that all 15 countries join the single currency in 1999. It also assumes that the profits of the European Central

Bank, due to be formed in 1999, will be shared among member states according to their nonulation and contribution to the GDP of the European Union.

Based on those assumptions the Bank of England would "own" just over 15 per cent of

which would have made £15.4bn of profit last year, calculated by adding together the profits of

the individual central banks. The Bank of England was one of Europe's most profitable banks in 1995 and stands to gain because its shareholding in the European Central Bank would yield a greater profit than it currently makes.

Germany, France and Italy would own larger stakes. However, Germany's 22 per cent shareholding would yield a smaller profit than the Bundesbank currently makes. Last year the Bundesbank made a profit of £5bn. Central banks can generate

profits by setting a "minimum reserve requirement" which requires commercial banks to sets with the central bank. Central banks also make fees

by providing debt management and other services to government or regulatory and settlement services to banks.

They also make money on seignorage - the income from the assets held against the notes and coins in issuance.

Comparing the profits of central banks - which in most instances end up in the pockets of government - is tricky because they use different accounting methods and conduct

In Brief

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• Invesco said Norman Riddell, its European chief executive. will resign after three-and-a-half years with the company "to pursue new challenges". A spokeswoman denied Mr Riddell's resignation was related with Invesco's purchase of Aim Management Group of the US this month. "He's built up the business over the last three-and-a-half years and he feels he's completed his job here," she added. Mr Riddell will be replaced at the end of the year by Tristan Hillgarth. Invesco also said it would reorganise its operations in Europe and Asia into a global division that will be run by Michael Benson. • EMI Group has acquired a 50 per cent stake in US independent record company Priority Records from Turami without dis-

closing financial terms. Priority had sales of \$92.2m (£55m) in

the year to 30 June and the company's current artist roster in-

cludes Ice Cube, Mack 10, Originoo Gunn Clappaz, Jay-Z, and

Master P. Priority will continue to be based in Hollywood and will operate independently, EMI said. Scottish Life, the Edinburgh-based life company, underlined its commitment to mutual status by raising £125m from a bond issue. The company, which has more than £5bn under management said the money would be used to pursue its activities further, including product development. A spokesman did not rule out takeover bids, although he said this was unlikely at present. Scottish Life, formed in 1881, sells only through independent ad-

visers and recently decided to specialise in pension products.

- Cox Insurance, the insurance underwriter, warned of increased competition in the insurance markets despite showing an increase in operating profits of £3.97m in the six months to 30 September, compared with £259,000 in the same period last year. The company said its recent acquisition of Christopherson Heath Group, the insurance broker, should be "significantly earningsenhancing", while the reconstruction and renewal package recently agreed by Lloyd's names would remove long-standing liabilities from surviving syndicates.
- A company director who fed a lavish life style with thousands of pounds she milked from her employers was juiled for two years at the Old Bailey yesterday. Linda Lines, 43, took £137,000 over a 30-month period - spending it on holidays abroad and casinos in Las Vegas. She had sole responsibility for looking after the books at the Hanover Trustee Investment Company, which worked closely with stockbrokers Charles Stanley. • France Telecom, the world's fourth-biggest telecommunica-

tions company, has won a licence to operate GSM mobile phone

Services in Romania, further expanding its presence in eastern

Europe. The state-owned company, slated for partial sale to the

- public next spring, already counts 115,000 subscribers to its mobile service in Poland. And in January, it will begin mobile phone Apta Beaktheare has received an approach which may lead to an after being made for the company. Such an offer if made is bulikely to be at a significant premium to the current share price
- of 16.75p; which values the company at almost £13m. GWR Group has sold Prospect for £17m cash to The Radio Network of New Zealand, realising a net profit of about £3.8m.
 Prospect owns12 radio stations in Auckland and Hamilton.

Definite bidder: Lawrie

Nigel Cope

At least two firm bids were submitted yesterday for Notting-ham Forest, the struggling Premiership football club. However, as the deadline for offers passed yesterday afternoonthere was speculation that other bidders might still be in the frame including a consortium involving Norwegian agent Rune Hauge, who was at the centre of the Arsenal "bungs"

scandal. Definite bids have been tabled by a consortium involving Lawrie Lewis, the founder of Blenheim Group, the exhi-bitions company that was recently sold for £600m, Irving Scholar, the former Tottenham Hotspur chairman, and Phil Soar, a former chief executive of Blenheim who is also a Forest supporter and an author of

football books. Their bid is diate stock market flotation thought to be for around due to the club's lowly league £12.5m cash with plans to raise a further £20m through a stock

Competition for Forest hotting up

market flotation. The second bid is from a group of Nottingham businessmen, fronted by chartered accountants BDO Stoy Haywood. This is also a cash bid thought to be in the region of £15m. However, the Stoy Haywood group has ruled out an imme-

position and poor profit record. It hopes to improve the club's finances and groom it for a

flotation in three to four years. Mr Hauge, who also led a consortium that lost out in the bid for Leeds United earlier this year, is said to have expressed an interest in Forest.

It is understood that Grant Bovey, a 35-year-old Nottingham born businessman, has pulled out of the bidding. It is also thought that John Bredenkamp, a former arms dealer who now manages the af-

fairs of top sporting personali-ties, has not tabled an offer. Forest is under pressure to resolve its ownership structure quickly as the uncertainty could affect the team's performance. Forest are currently second from bottom in the Premiership.

Lewis, founder of Blenheim Alternative routes to the investor's holy grail

In recent years there has been a flurry of attempts to systematise stock selection by using a series of purely financial sieves to reduce a large universe of shares to a manageable, and hopefully outperforming, portfolio. It is the investment equivalent of the search for the holy granl-stock market success with a minimum of knowledge or

The criteria used have varied considerably but all have been made possible by the of the market. enormously improved power of computers which has allowed the sort of wide-ranging prob-ing of company databases that investors could only dream of until recently. An important assumption

these systems tend to share is

the belief that finding stocks that will outperform their wider markets can be done using essentially mechanical means and rigid statistical criteria. Not surprisingly this approach to investment has been greeted with scepticism by the proinvestment community, the livelihood of which depends on the opposite assumption - that investment is an art, not a science, and as such dependent on the experts found in just that professional

investment community.

Jim Slater, one of the greatest systematisers, says he is constantly amazed by the unwillingness of fund managers to accept his basic investment premise that the biggest potential gains are likely to be found in shares trading on low price/earnings ratios relative to their forecast growth

rates (low PEGs to use the jar-

gon), which also enjoy strong

cash flow and have already

started to outperform the rest

He finds those shares using computerised trawls through a massive database of corporate data, a technique that many subscribers to Hemmington Scott's Really Essential Financial Statistics (devised by Mr

Slater) are also adopting. He says he asks sceptical investors the reverse question why should these sort of shares not outperform - and rarely gets an answer. He is the first to admit that the numbercrunching is only the first step and no replacement for experience and an element of subjective appraisal, and it does seem curious that his attempts to be rigorously analytical should be treated with such wariness by supposedly rigorous analysts. A research note issued this

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN proposes are remarkably similar to the subjective criteria Mr

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

vestment bank, underlined the divide, dismissing many of Mr Slater's claims on its way to coming up with a portfolio of six long-term investment tips. It concludes with four investment "rules": there is no easy system for valuing growth stocks; the PEG ratio is no better or worse than other valuation methods; past earnings growth is no sure indication of future growth and choosing

stocks on the basis of highest forecast growth does not generate above average returns. earnings momentum.

is really interesting is that the 12 "qualitative" criteria UBS

UBS's 'six for success' Bowthorpe CMG Compass LIG Serco Spirax-Sarco Expanding market share High barriers to entry ring or Stable margins Transparent accounting 1930 536 383 22 18 Market cap. (Em) 483

week by UBS, the Swiss in-

Finally it advises investors to pick growth stocks on the ba-sis of their "qualitative" char-The two approaches look increasingly like flip-sides of the acteristics and their impact on As such of course, the note is little more than an apology for expensive stockbrokers' research departments. But what

Slater uses in conjunction with his financial sieves in his latest book. Bevond the Zulu Principle. The only difference is that he uses the numbers to find companies that satisfy the criteria while UBS suggests using the criteria to find companies that cut the mustard financially.

same coin. The criteria are really only common sense, but no less valuable for that. Invest in companies, they suggest, op-erating in growing markets such as information technology, the media or pharmaceuticals, with growing market share, protected by high barri-ers to entry and with little pricing pressure thanks to positions in fragmented industries. producing branded goods or crucial services.

Other sensible criteria include a management with a clear business strategy, an ability to market a good product effectively, a new product pipeline and the potential to replicate success at home in overseas markets. This is especially important in the Mid-250 index from which the

chosen by UBS because com-panies of this size (between about £400m and £2bn) are often approaching saturation in the UK and need to move overseas to continue growing.

Only after these criteria have been satisfied does UBS look at financial criteria - low earnings volatility, a defensiveness in economic downturns, growing or stable margins and transparent accounting. There is no space to discuss

each of the six in detail here. but all of the companies merit further attention. Although they are very different, ranging from Bowthorpe's steady electronics and electrical businesses to CMG's high-tech systems integration, from Compass's low-tech outsourced catering operations to LIG's growing condom and medical gloves business, they all share many of the growth criteria highlighted in the table.

A word of caution, however. Unlike Mr Slater's PEG approach which seeks out overlooked or misunderstood stocks, UBS makes no claim that any of its choices are excessively undervalued. It is looking for long-term investments and for many investors, the price of quality stocks such companies in the table were as these may seem rather rich.

Hard acts for Cousins to follow

Mark Burton looks at the prospects of a breakthrough on to the world stage for one of Britain's young ice skaters

ontinue the following sequence: John Curry, Robin ousins, Torvill and Dean... Nice idea, but all those who think hell will freeze over before Britain again rules the ice rink should rest assured, the National Ice Skating Association is working on producing future champions.

Before triple axeling to the conclusion that failure to follow through on that success was simply showed of a national lack of commitment and represent a missed opportunity it is worth considering that a run of British champions at three successive Olympics was freakish. None of those successes was a fluke, but only the dancers Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean could be said to have been continuing a British tradition in the early Eighties.

Cousins just happened to have developed into a worldbeating figure skater at the right time to inherit Curry's Olympic title in 1980. There was no national master plan, just his own remarkable talent and the small matter of a decade or more of total commitment to making the most of it and become a champion.

Another Cousins, Steven (no relation), has this week been trying to prove that he deserves to retain that honour domestically in defending his title at the national championships at Guildford's superb Spectrum Centre, one of the number of ice rinks that have sprung up around the country that accommodate another of the periodic revivals in ice hockey. While that sport is propped up by imports from Canada, Cousins has moved the other way into necessary self-im-

Champions like Brian Orser, Brian Boitano and Cousins' close friend Elvis Stoiko have raised and changed the image of the sport in north America. Figure skating is now seen as a more masculine endeavour and

proportion of television audiences for not only the major championships, but also for the invitational and exhibition events from which Cousins can hope to raise the £30,000 a year he needs to finance the coaching and competition that he needs to maintain his status in the world's top 10.

But who is going next to be the next to break through on the European and world stage? Among the junior men is another Cousins, Tristan (he is re-lated), but while he shows glimpses of uncle Robin's style was another 14-year-old, Alan Street, who skated away with the junior title. Street, who lives in Bingley but heads west off the Yorkshire moors to train at Blackburn, has not only obvious ability but also that certain something that marks him out as a class above his rivals. For him, too, it is a matter of investing in his future to build on the international experience that has already made a difference to his skating. To that end his parents are prepared to move to a smaller house to re-

The skating world is as tough as they come in sport, and progression through the junior and senior ranks is not always automatic. Carol Bartlam, the vicechairman of the Nisa coaching committee who was guiding Stuart Bell's fortunes in the senior event, offered a word of warning when she said: "Physical development does affect balance and co-ordination, so sometimes you do find that skaters who are very good at a young age can't make the transition to become very good when they get older." Then again Russia's Igor Kulik went straight from winning the world junior championship into the European senior event

lease money to finance him.

and won that. In recognising that the old hit and miss approach of the past is simply not good enough any



Alan Street on his way to winning the national junior championship at Guildford this week

Nisa, is putting in place a pyra-Tesa, who helped to protect this

mid structure that starts from a week's championships from the cold draught of financial failure. grass-roots, nationwide "Fun Celia Godsall, Nisa's chief Skate" scheme to draw in new skaters. Like so many sporting executive who came into the job bodies, Nisa has its eyes on lotwith no experience of skating and was staggered by how diftery money, particularly after the changes announced this ficult the sport is, explained the week in the approach to using way forward. "We're developsuch funding in sport, and has ing a whole new squad strucalso attracted sponsorship from ture, which will take us from the

grass roots, with talent identification and regional squads, through to a national development squad and right at the top the élite athletes," she said. "One of the challenges of skating is that it is such a long-term business. Most of the junior champions will have been skating for 10 years to get that far." All a successful skater needs

are six-year-olds who do not yet know that they could have the lot.

a feel for music and movement. That's all. Curry, Robin Cousins, Torvill and Dean all had those qualities. Steven Cousins has them, Street has the essential el-

Photograph: Peter Jay to get on is athleticism, grace, physical and mental strength and ements and is building the rest. Somewhere out there, Nisa hope,

Giles teaches Academy a spinning lesson

Cricket

MYLES HODGSON reports from Mount Gambier Australian Academy 258 v England A

Ashley Giles gave another masterful display yesterday to cap a disciplined and determined England A performance as Australia's best young cricketers were dismissed for 258 on the opening day of England's latest

The Warwickshire bowler claimed 4 for 63 to underline his claims as England's left-arm spinner in waiting as the muchberalded Academy lost their last six wickets for 99 runs in 27

Giles, Peter Such and Andrew

Harris had given the tourists a great start by reducing the Academy to 34 for 3 but Michael Dighton and Shawn Craig embarked on a fourth-wicket part-nership of 125 which threatened to undo England's early success.
Giles, however, dismissed Craig (61) and Dighton (72) either side of tea before claiming the final wicket of the innings in the final over of the day.

SUCT. 33-9-12-12 Common of P Vaugher. J ENGLAND A: M A Butcher, of P Vaugher. J E R Gohen. O A Shah, "A I Hollophia, M A Esitrem, HW K Hedg. A F Grees, G Chapola, A J Harris, P M Such. Umphres: A Hurber and K Russell.

After being on offer for just two weeks, tickets sales for Eng-land's matches against Australia next summer have topped £2m for Test matches at The Oval, Trent Bridge and Edghaston.

The Texaco Trophy match at The Oval was a self-out after four days and there are only a few scats left on Fridays and Saturdays for the Test matches at all three grounds.

The new media centre at Lord's received planning per-mission from Westminster Council yesterday. The centre, situated at the Nursery End, will cost £2.6m and should be completed in time for the 1998

Openers humiliate West Indies attack

West Indies suffered a blow to morale in Tasmania yesterday when two Australian Test hopefuls savaged their pace attack in the final warm-up match before the first Test in Brisbane on Fri-

After Stuart Law, the Australia XI captain, won the toss and decided to bat following an early rain delay his openers, Matthew Elliott and Matthew Hayden, hit unbeaten centuries as an Australian XI amassed a daunting 316 without loss on the opening day of a four-day match at Hobart's Bellerive

Oval. At the close, Elliott was on 153 with Hayden 10 behind on

Missing the services Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh and Kenneth Benjamin, the West Indies' weakened fast bowling attack failed to impress.

Hayden was dropped twice before bringing up his century, first on 15 by Sherwin Campbell at point and then on 84 by Robert Samuels at square leg. doin times from the de the paceman Nixon McLean, who is making his first tour with West Indies.

The pair had reached 199 by tea and were merciless in the final session, lifting their scoring

tempo to add another 117. The luckless McLean finished with 0-80 runs from 20 overs, while Ian Bishop was the most economical, conceding 52

The partnership between Elliott and Hayden was the high-est opening stand in a first-class match in Hobart.

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Wasim Akram took 3 for 20 from eight overs and rallied Pakistan to a 41-run victory over New Zealand in vesterday's Singer Champions Trophy final in Sharjah. United Arab Emirates.

His bowling enabled Pakistan to dismiss the Kiwis for 119 in 36.5 overs after his side had reached a total of 160 in 48.5

New Zealand appeared headed for victory as their opener Mark Greathatch made a forceful 52 off 80 balls. Greatbatch's first half-century in the three-nation event included seven boundaries, but when his careless sweep shot was caught by Ijaz Ahmed off Mushtaq Ahmed with the score at 98 for four, the New Zealand innings

around 30 runs short for a winning total," Wasim said, "but we had a team meeting at the lunch

break and said never lose hope." Saqlain Mushtaq, Shahid Afridi and Mushtaq Ahmed each took two wickets apiece while Salim Malik led the batsmen with a modest 40.

Yorkshire move attacked

over their decision to move from Headingley to a green-field site near Wakefield.

The Tory MP Keith Hampson made the call as he attacked the club's president, Sir Lawrence Byford, at a meeting of more than 350 concerned Yorkshire members at Headingley.

'Sir Lawrence is living in a dream world. It is not a democracy but an autocracy," said Hampson, who represents Leeds North West. I hope Yorkshire members will call for a special general meeting to force the committee to reconsider the situation."

The pressure group "Head-ingley is Home", which is close to obtaining the 400 signatures

Yorkshire are facing the threat they need to demand an SGM, of a special general meeting are to approach the Yorkshire chief executive, Chris Hassell, in an attempt to get the committee to reconsider their decision to move.

Yorkshire are tenants of the Leeds Cricket, Football and Athletic Company which was taken over last month by a consortium headed by a property developer Paul Caddick, "Our aim is to encourage cricket and we are holding weekly meetings with Leeds City Council to overcome various off-site problems such as car parking," he said. "I have received a letter from

Sir Lawrence saying he is not prepared to enter into any dis-cussions about Headingley but in my view the funding package for Wakefield is not realistic."

Grinstead set to repeat feat

Hockey BILL COLWILL

Reading, who took over the leadership of the Premier Division of the National League last weekend, entertain the young, highly attractive East Grinstead tomorrow. Grinstead have built up a reputation this season for knocking the top clubs off their perch - both Can-nock and Old Loughtonians having lost pole position following games against the Sus-

Grinstead's Great Britain goalkeeper David Luckes said vesterday: "It seems a neverending round of top clubs to play. Sunday's is another crunch game. Unfortunately we do not do well on water-based pitches I don't believe we have ever won a league match on one. But we are getting accustomed to for the Reading game."
The left-half Danny Byfield

will be missing from the Grinstead line-up, but the Scottish

international Marc Zander is expected to return in midfield. Reading will be missing Mark Hoskin, who is studying, and the former Slough player Gavin Bambury, who has decided to retire because he is unable to command a regular starting

The game will feature both Britain's Olympic goalkeepers since Simon Mason is in the Reading goal. There will also be a striker on each side who will he playing for a place in the England squad to go to Pakistan in March: Reading's Mark Pearn, who just missed out on the Atlanta Games, and the rapidly improving and consis-tent Richard Gibson, who could well become the answer to England's long quest to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Sean Kerly.

In the second key game of the day, third-placed Old Loughtonians entertain Cannock who were knocked off the top last weekend and are now in second place. Both teams expect to be

ligers caught in American nightmare

RICHARD TAYLOR

Thames Valley Tigers take a lightweight line-up into tonight's National Cup quarterfinal with London Leopards after ditching their 6ft 9in American Kevin Vulin. The coach, Mick Bett, who

admits his job is "on the line"

Lee Westwood is eyeing his second win in successive weeks

in Japan as he shares the lead

after yesterday's half-way stage

of the Dunlop Phoenix in

the Taiheiyo Masters last week,

joined the defending champion,

Jumbo Ozaki, on 135, after a

three-under second round of 68.

Ozaki, whose bogey-free

round kept alive his hopes of a

third consecutive victory in the

tournament and his 100th

career win, and Westwood are

The Englishman, who won

Miyazaki.

after not winning a Budweiser allow five Americans per club. League game since 5 October, has lined up Jeffrey Clifton as a replacement, but the American will not have work permit clearance in time to play.

The rapid turnover in personnel over the first two months of the season has vindicated the comments of the London Towers coach, Kevin Cadle, when the League announced it would

one shot ahead of the overnight

leader Tom Watson after his 70.

four birdies on the front nine,

with the only blemish being a

bogey at the par-four 14th hole. Australia's Peter Lonard

overcame a pre-dawn wake-up

call yesterday to take a share of the lead in the Australian PGA

championship in Sydney. He is

joined on six under par, 138, by

his compatriots Justin Cooper

Lonard was one of 53 play-

ers forced to rise early to com-

plete their first rounds after

strong winds disrupted Thurs-

and Chris Gray.

day's opening round.

Westwood's round included

Cadle said: "Most clubs in this League don't have the finances or the contacts to recruit two decent Americans, let alone five."

Bett said: "When a coach or agent is selling you a player he emphasises the plus points. You only learn the minus points when they get here."

The League's pre-season hype on Vulin described him as

Lonard, one of the first out on

the course, finished his round on

three-under par. He then had

hold the outright lead before dropping a shot to finish equal

American Jerry Kelly's 66 was

the best round of the day and

he joined the overnight leader Wayne Riley, of Australia, on 139. Gary Evans and David

Howell were the best-placed

British players on 143, with Ben Jackson slumping to a 77

and Laura Davies struggled to

Britain's Catriona Matthew

after his opening-round 68.

David Johnson, the 6ft 10in

Canadian released by Crystal Palace, makes his debut for the bottom club, Hemel and Watfirst win of the season at home to Birmingham tomorrow.

lege's conference, averaging 21

points and 12 rebounds. At

Tigers, he averaged eight points

and five rebounds.

Westwood maintains his run of form maintain their first-day form as Jane Crafter took the lead af-

birdies at four of the first five tralian Ladies' Masters on the holes of his second round to Gold Coast. Crafter, using a brand new putter, shot an eight-under-par with Cooper (68) and Gray (70). 65 for a 12-under-par total of 134 and a two-stroke lead over Matthew, who added a 71 to her

ter the second round of the Aus-

first-round 65. Davies was a shot further back on 137 after an inconsistent second round of 70. The champion in 1993 and 1994 twice took three putts for bogeys but recovered by sinking a 40-foot eagle putt at the par-five 15th. Scores, Digest, page 29

ary 24 or February 1.
His re-match with the Amer-

ican Oliver McCall for the title relinquished by Mike Tyson will go ahead in Atlantic City or London, with the January date looking the more likely of the two. McCall originally took the WBC title from the Briton.

moter, Don King. The court ruled that King had lost his right to promote the contest and his placed by the second-highest bid of \$6.151m (£6.83m) submoters, Main Events.

It will cost Lewis around half of King's deposit for the

Lewis said: "I pleased that finally I'm going to get back into ring. The financial loss is not important, it's winning the title back that's important."

It was the second big victory inside a week for Dino Duva, the president of Main Events, over King. On Saturday, the Main Events-promoted Evan-



Features → Options . ◀ Spiritualist claims she hears JFK in her attic. Microsoft® Encarta® 97 Encyclopedia.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK I prayed before the fight, I prayed when I got

into the ring and I even prayed during the fight because I knew what I was

l can't remember a the third round. Tyson. I get paid far too much ting boxing. Tyson.

I just have to commend you. I have the greatest re- . I am not ashamed to spect for you. I just want gracious in defeat.

am great. Naseem Hamed's claim after his

successful defence of his

World Boxing Council featherweight championship against Remigio Molina.

The players and I are facing. Evander Holy- at the lowest ebbs of our field, the three-times world careers. Vinnie Jones, heavyweight champion, "the Welsh captain, after after his victory over Mike the 7-1 World Cup defeat by the Netherlands.

It's the worst incident. thing about the fight after of my career. Trevor Brooking, former England player now journalist, money to think about quit- attacked by a Georgian journalist during Press match in Tbilisi.

admit I have suffered for to shake your hand, Tyson - some time from the huge pressure I have imposed You have got to say that On myself. Steve Coppel resigns as Manchester

Lewis considers dates

Boxing

Lennox Lewis's long-awaited at-tempt to regain the World Box-ing Council heavyweight title, has been pencilled in for Janu-

Lewis' victory in a New Jersey court on Wednesday knocked out the politics as well as the purse bid by Tyson's American prooffer of \$9.152m (£5.68m) was remitted by Lewis's American pro-

\$1m, but he regards that as a small price to pay to get back the title he lost dramatically to McCall in two rounds at the Wembley Arena in September, 1994. His initial financial loss of \$1.5m was, however, cut by Judge Amos Saunders' award of

fight, \$500,000.

der Holyfield upset Tyson in Las Vegas to win the WBA crown.

Naseem Hamed will make the fifth defence of his World Boxing Organisation featherweight title on February 1 or 8 against a challenger to be named.

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Rea realises a lasting passion

icture it: a multi-tiered fountain reaching high in the imagination of a possessed young man and suddenly, atop this staircase of fantasy, appears Shirley Bassey, in sparkling scarlet dress, singing Yes, I own a Ferrari".

Now you might think it would take a possessed mind to conjure such an image for public consumption, and you might be right. Then again, the creator might have Italian blood coursing through his veins, he might understand what it is to believe a motor car can be bestowed by angels, and he might have a boundless range of expressions for that devotion.

Over the years, these columns have endeavoured. doubtless inadequately, to convey to a world beyond Ferrari's embrace what this compulsion is all about. Chris Rea is having his go on the big screen. The rock singer-songwriter has abandoned the "Road To Hell" for the track to paradise.

La Passione, which premièred at the London Film Festival at the Odeon Leicester Square, is a surreal self-indulgence; possibly half an hour too long and even then perhaps too much for those who do not comprehend, or do not care to comprehend. It helps to be a Ferrari freak and an Italian. Better still, a Ferrari freak and an Italian raised in another country, thereby accepting a profound responsibility as protector of the faith. Rea will-

ingly accepts that responsibility. The son of an Italian ice cream maker in Middlesbrough, he inherited the bond with Ferrari, though not an unbreakable commitment to the family business. So it is that in this semiautobiographical film, young Pino Maldini – as all Italians, Rea was captivated also by beautiful football - is initiated by his papa and the rest of the menfolk by watching a race on

television. The attentive Pino is told to look and listen for the Ferrari, that awesome power, that disDerick Alisop sees a film celebrating grand prix racing's Prancing Horse

tinct sound, and that incompa-rable appearance, the sharknosed car. And the greatest of the Ferrari drivers, the German Count, Wolfgang Von Trips.
And what colour is the Ferrari,
Papa? Red, son, replies papa,
splendidly portrayed by Paul
Shane, holding up his glass of
wine, "Blood red."

All right, so it may sound cliched. Parts of it are a mite slushy, and when Pino grows up to become Jo he at times cuts a rather pathetic figure. But then exaggeration is the vehicle for this film and emotion is the driv. o force. It is unashamedly emotional, a sensation intensified by the beguiling music. If the movie leaves you unconvinced, try the CD.

Rea harnesses all the connotations he can muster to project his meaning of Ferrari: religious, sensual, nationali 'c. Enzo Ferrari beckons him fro the altar and you are reminded of Nigel Mansell's famous assertion that a call from Ferrari is like a call from the Vatican. The screen is a mosaic of classic cars, prancing horses and dancing girls. Like Rea, Jo Maldini grows

disenchanted with the ice cream trade and, to the consternation of his father, seeks fulfilment elsewhere. Instead of being lured to the music business, Jo has the idea of producing aftershave and perfume - labelled, of course, La Passione - from his father's vanilla ice cream potion. His inevitable success gives him the wealth to realise his dream of owning his own Ferraris.

Still, however, he mourns the death of Von Trips, on the very threshold of the world championship (13 spectators were also killed in the accident at Monza, in 1961). It is only af-

ter a visitation by the ghost of the German driver that Jo is relieved of the burden, and he symbolically leaves his tiny model of the shark-nosed Ferrari, minus a tyre, on the gates of Von Trips' tomb.

Rea's Ferraris are featured in the film and he had built a replica of the No 4 shark-nosed car driven by his hero. He acquired much of the stunning, previously unshown footage from the Von Trips Foundation. The shots in the hills above Maranello are

equally evocative.

Rea stresses this is his first venture into movie making - he wrote and produced it, as well as scoring and performing the soundtrack, and could not resist a fleeting appearance, à la Hitchcock - and that it cost a modest £1.5m. He presents this as a simple fantasy, simply fun, to be simply enjoyed. The ultimate, tantalising fantasy is of Ayrton Senna sitting in the cockpit of a red car. Rea maintains his is not an

obsession but a passion. "You only have to have a small part of Italian in you to feel it," he "ays. "It's in the soul. And perhaps, as a second-generation
. 'ian, I feel it even more."

l'errari's relatively inauspicious performances in Formula One's recent past have served to confirm the marque's unique standing, a phenomenon more to do with mythology than logic. And that is the point. Michael Schumacher may revive the car's racing fortunes, but its place in the hearts and consciousness of its disciples is assured regardless.

Patrick Head was among those in the audience who could not help wondering if Rea's ef-figy of the Maldini family locality - cooling towers spewing smoke - did not depict the landscape of Didcot, where the Williams team were formerly based. Williams occupy the seat of power in modern grand prix racing, but Rea contends they will never challenge the spiritual pre-eminence of Ferrari.



cal operation," he said. "Ferrari is an opera. There is no comparison, is there? Ferrari is Italy on LSD."

The drug hooked some dis-Ferrari drivers past and present,

to the première. Along with Mansell was Stirling Moss, Sir Jack Brabham, Tony Brooks, John Watson, Derek Bell and Eddie Irvine. Also under the spell were Bernie Ecclestone tinguished drivers, including and Eddie Jordan. And there, in person, was Shirley Bassey.

eyesight and was not at the showing. Rea, like Jo, is comforted in the knowledge that his papa does at least approve of the direction he is now taking. "He's heard the music and he thinks I'm getting there at last.'

BREITLING



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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

TODAY

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ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Aylesbury v Heybridge; Cershatton v Oxford City, Herrow Borough v Yeading, Hitchin v Duhwich; Kingstoman v Bishop's Stortford; Staines v Purfleet; Yeovil v Stittin Utr. First Division: Bashigstoke v Hampton; Bekhamsted v Chesham; Carnay island v Hersham; Maidenhead v Barton Rouers; Marlow v Abingdon Town; Molesey v Whyteleafe; Thame v Urbindge; Tooting & Mitcham v Beliericay; Wokingham v Bognor Regis; Worthing v Aldershot Town. Second Division: Banstead v Hernel Herripsteed; Barling v Horsham; Bedford Town v Edgwere; Bracknell v Egham; Chafford St Peter v Cheshurt; Collier Row & Romford v Tibury; Dorking v Witham; Metropolitan Police v Were; Wembley v Leighton; Windsor & Eton v Hungerford; Wivenhoe v Leatherhead. Third Division: Aveley v Wingste & Finchler; Camberley v Epsom & Evell; East Thurrock v Hornchurch; Reclavel Hearth v Kingsbury; Harlow v Claption; Northwood v Braitmee; Ting v Lewes; Wealdstone v Southall.

LEAGUE Premier Division: Al-freton v Guseley; Barnoer Bridge v Gainsborough; Bishop Auckland v Leek; Blyth Spartans v Buston; Chorley v Spennymoor; Emley v Barnow; Knowstey v Winton; Mannev Lancaster; Winsord v Accrygon; Dorshey v Barnoer; Harloston; Leigh v Lincoln Und. Motock v Farsley Celtic; Radcliffe Borough v Congleton; Wintley Bay v Worksop.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Atherstone v Baldock; Burton v Sitting-

v Congleton; Wintley Bay v Worksop.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division:
Atherstone v Beldock; Burton v Sittingbourne; Cambridge City v Crawley; Chehrsford v Dorchester; Hastangs v Halesowen
Town; Hungs Lynn v Newport AFC; Salisbury
v Gloucester. Mistland Division: Dudley v
Roddoch; Evesham v Rothwell; Grantham
v Bedworth; Hinckley Town v Solinul; Moor
Green v Paget Rangers; Racing Chub Warwack v VS Rugby; Struthnidge v Bleeston;
Sutton Coldfield v Raunds; Ternworth v Biston. Southern Division: Dentford v Forost Green; Fisher Athletic v Witney; Havant

AUTONI
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First
Division: Atherion Colleges v Glossop North
End: Stackpool Rovers v Perviti; Social v
St Heloris: Catheria v Majoria Rouel; Kidegrove v Benefit; Mossiny v Rossendale;
Nazawach v Chapderson; Proscot v Valuaties

Burschigh MINISTER MEBSEX LEAGUE: Lymingson V East Coner Mass, Anderer V Potentium Riv, BAT. Sports V Ryde Sports: Bemerton Masch Hedestune V Thetchers, Christmuch

Auctional v Guisborough.

Welsh CUP Third round: Bridgend v Abenshwyth; Bittinn Ferry v Rismeder; Liendardy v Lianwent; Caernarion v Ton Renter; Caersus v Bargor City; Cefn Duids v Sheffield Barders stable Velic Carness Bay v Porthmadog Conwy v Inter Cabletat; First v Cwrnbran; Grange Quits v Lianels; Hohywell v Circle Welt; Liansantificat v Barry Town; Newcoun v Maestieg Park; Porthcavi v Connabs; Ousy Normads; Porth Tywyn v Lex XI; Port Tabot v Welshpool.

SMIRNOFF #RSM LEAGUE Premier Division: Balymens v Badydere; Carnek v Bangor; Larne v Ornagh; Newry v Distillery.

HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF RELAND

HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Deny City v Bray Wen-derers (7.30); Home Farm Everton v St Patrick's Arbietic (7.30); Sigo Hovers v Finn Harps (7.30).

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Bros Rangers v Clechnacuddh; Buckle Tha-tle v Lossiemouth; Fores Mechanics v Cove Rangers; Nelm County v Fraserburgh; Pe-terhead v Deveronete; Wick Academy v Fort William.

SCOTTISH QUALIFYING CUP Final (North): Huntly v Bign City (at Nynoch Peris, Keith).

VENTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Divisions Charten Virthe: Crocken virther Canterbury (2.15); Degi v Beckenham; Foursham v Whatschile; Folleshore v Woodschile; Folleshore v Rockenham; Ford Sports v Corpenbaci; Folleshore v Rempston; Describer Divisions Bourse v Rempston; Describer Divisions Bourse v Rempston; Describer Divisions Bourse v Rempston; Describer V Nortempton v Rempston; Describe; Holleshore v Nortempton Spencer; Marices Riuckstone v Stortoki; Webingborough v Stewars & Uords Cotby, Woodson v St. Nects. League Cap seasond resent; Long Buckly v Spating Potton v Startford. Screw PTD DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Divisions Bidehard v Westbury; Bidehor v Bansage; Brisington v Tomagon; Bristo Marice Selection of Straington v Tomagon; Bristo Marice Selection of Straington v Tomagon; Bristo Chappinham v Pourton Rovers; Odd Down v Emarce; Taurron v Managosheid; Twerton v Boowell.

NORTHERINC COUNTES EAST LEAGUE CLP Sedead rounds Astriget & Garronth; Belber v Glasshroughton; Biddworth v Ossed Bare; Dernsyn Hallern; Gapwell v Pokserny Half Roud Rangers v Selb; Hallend Cappill v Briston (2.30); Met Police v Charlen v Briston (2.30); Met Police v Charlen v Briston (2.30); Met Police v Charlen v Briston v Briston v Managosheid; Twerton v Briston v Briston v Managosheid; V Halfred Cappinham v Half North Walsham v Newbury v Barken v Permouth (2.30); Weston v Sterion v Briston v Br EUROPEAN CONFERENCE Quarter-fi-nals: Agen v Bègiss (6.30); Bourgoin v Cier-mont-ferrend (2.0); Castres v Toulon (8.30); Northampton v Nationne.

on-super-Mare v Beny Hill.

WELSH NATIONAL 1.E AGILE First Divisions Caembrilly v Bridgend (2.30); Newport v Nesth (2.30); Swensea v Newbridge (2.30); Swensea v Newbridge (2.30); Second Division: Aberdron v Abertillery (2.30); Abergron v Liandovery (2.30); Biackwood v Bonymatin (2.30); Maesseg v Pomtpool (2.30); South Wales Police v UWC (Cardid Institute) (2.30); Ystradgynias v Cross Heys (2.30).

TEINENTS SCOTTESH CHAMPIONSHIP

OWN. Const Reys. (2.30).
TENNENTS: SCOTTISH CHAMPIONISHE
Promiser League First Division: Hexacis
Promiser League First Division: Hexacis
Booughanst (2.0); Heatons PV Curie (2.0);
Suring County v Melrose (2.0); Wassonians v Jed-Forest (2.0). Second Division:
Bigger V Glasgow HK (2.0); Dunder HSPPV Kelso (2.0); Vilesto Scottand v Gale (2.0).
Third Division: Glasgow Acads v Edinburgh
Acads (2.0); Wastonians Southern v Mimarriock (2.0); Virtically v Peebles (2.0);
Preston Logis v Sameer's Mewille PP (2.0);
Sellork v Musealburgh (2.0). Fourth Divialon: Agr v Halfrest/Lordenhall (2.0); Corstonghafe v Langnolm (2.0); Gordonars v
Heddington (2.0); Grangemouth v Glensothes (2.0).

chorins v Woking Backenham v Turbridge Wells; Fareham v Wimbledon; Gore Court v High Wycombe; Hampstaed & West-minster v Ashford; Maldenhead v Old Whit-hinster v Ashford; Maldenhead v Old Whitgiftians; Old Kingstonians v Chichester; Richmond v Remgarhia; Spencer v Wok-ingham; Winchester v Bournemouth. ADMANS EAST Premier: Chekristord v

NORTH First Division: Ben Rhydding v Chester: Formby v Timperley, Harrogate v Ramgarhia; Neston v Norton; Springfields v Sheffield Bankers; Swathwell v Southport. SUNLIFE WEST OF ENGLAND & SOUTH WALES Premier: Bath Buccs. v

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Manchester Grants

WOMEN'S NATIONAL CLP Quer ipswich v Birmingham (7.30); No v Rhonidta (8.0); Thames Valley

MEN'S NATIONAL TROPHY Operter-finals

SNOOKER: UK Championship (Pre NG: British Grand Prix (Lelce

Rugby Union Under 21 International TOUR MATCH: Lynagh's XV v Queensland (at Serecens, 3.0).

Hockey
NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier Division:
Barford Tigers v Hounslow (1.0); Guldiford
v Southgate (12.0); Old Loughtonians v
Cannock (1.30); Reading v East Ginstead
(2.0); Surbiton v Canterbury (2.30); Teddington v Hawart (12.0), First Division:
Beeston v St Alberts (2.0); Blueharts v
Stouport (2.0); Bourwille v Rojens (2.30);
Bromley v Werrington (1.0); Brooklands
v Herleston Magpies (2.0); City of
Portsmouth v Gloucester City (1.30);
Crostox v Firebrands (12.30); Doncaster
v Edgoeston (2.0); Hull v Oxford Hawles
(2.0); Isca v Sheffield (12.30); Lewes v
Oxford Unix. (2.0).

Basketbaß BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Hernel & Warford Royals v Peugeot Bullets Bermangharm

ICE INCCKEY
SUPERLEAGUE, Cardiff Devils v Notting-ham Panthers (6.0); Manchester Storm v Ayr Scottish Engles (5.0); Newcastle Co-bras v Basingstoke Bison (6.30).

BADMENTON: England v China (King's Lynn). SNOOKER: UK Championship (Presson).



All set for battle of the titans

Cardiff and Bath renew hostilities in the European Cup today. Chris Hewett reports

t might have been organised by Don King. Two battle-scarred warriors, seated at the same long table but separated by a respectable distance. were weighing up the prospects for their latest confrontation in time-honoured style, their words laced with fighting

We respect them, but we certainly don't hold them in awe," Terry Holmes said.
"We've been saying we're the best in Europe for years, so it's time to put up or shut up, John Hall said.

Given that neither man is actually participating in this afternoon's eagerly awaited Heineken European Cup quarter-final between Cardiff and Bath at the Arms Park -Holmes now coaches the allinternational Welsh outfit while Hall is director of rugby with the English champions - heaven only knows what the players will say about the game once they slam the doors of their respective dressing-rooms and get down to brass tacks. The ballyhoo has been building all week and just for once, every last

began a little over a decade ago when Welshmen poured over the Severn Bridge in their thousands for a Wednesday night fixture at the Recreation Ground. In an age of club friendlies - there were no domestic leagues in 1985, let alone any authoritative Continental competition - the game somehow took the mantle of a mini-international and matched expectations so completely that it is still recalled whenever rugby is discussed in either city.

With around 12,000 sardined into the arena - the official head count of 9,000 was aimed more at the taxman than anyone else - Bath won a gladiatorial encounter 16-13, scoring three tries to one. The best of them fell to Hall, careering over the line with sundry Welshmen hanging from his jersey, while Holmes, who had been responsible for Cardiff's lone strike, might have snatched victory at the death but for a crooked feed to a five-metre

"Don't remind me," said the legendary scrum-half, whose rich experience with Wales and



npions are 'the best in Europe'. As a player, Hall never managed to win a match in Cardiff

everything about the game, which was a truly tremendous

"Bath were just on the rise at that point after years of playing second fiddle to their neighbours, Bristol and Gloucester, and I suppose there was a bestof-Britain feel to the occasion. Certainly, there was a fantastic edge to the atmosphere.

"I think we can expect a to its billing.

over the last few years that you have to put them right up there with the likes of Toulouse in terms of quality and achievement. But to succeed at this level you have to meet and beat the best. "Both sides have outstanding

players at their disposal, so it will all boil down to which players deliver when it's most needed." Rather like Holmes, who ended his single Lions Test ap-

career left him short-changed in terms of fulfilment of potential. As a result, his commitment to Bath's assault on club rugby's holy trinity of titles - the Courage League, the Pilkington Cup and, most importantly, the Heineken Cup - is intensely

"I failed to manage a single victory in Cardiff as a player, he said during a visit to the

in the days before the national leagues were set up and for some reason or other, we never seemed able to squeeze out a result, no matter how strong a side we sent over the bridge.

In fact, Bath have won only once in Cardiff in 72 years. Having avoided defeat for the first time by drawing 10-10 in 1990, they went one better the following year by inching home the rest of the afternoon berating his absent team-mate. for his lack of effort in the "Ever since the draw paired

the two clubs together, people have been saying that it's all about England versus Wales," said Hall, delving deep into the Bill Shankly book of sporting eraggeration. "As far as I'm concerned, it's far more important than that. This is about Bath and

Just like the late, great man of Liverpool, he meant every

10-9 in a game notable for the ounce of it has carried its own the Lions has never been able similar atmosphere for this pearance against New Zealand Arms Park this week. "It wasn't game, for I'm sure it will live up in Christchurch in 1983 with his for the want of trying. I finished fact that Gareth Chilcott, the to blur the sharp images he The two clubs have been tak- retained from that defeat on right knee in pieces, Hall sufon the losing side four, perhaps redoubtable West Country prop, failed to notice the send-This is a huge challenge for fered so badly from similar ining pot-shots at each other since the banks of the Avon. "I five times here. 1924, but the real rivalry can remember pretty much ing-off of Ben Clarke and spent us. Bath have been so successful juries that his international "It was always a huge game

If the two captains and Dick Best echoed by the Quins captain, Jason Leonard, who says: "We are going there as the underdogs."

The Tigers captain, Dean

Harlequins are barking up the Quins have a superior record at are to be believed the European Leicester, having won four of Cup quarter-final hetween their last seven Courage League Leicester and Harlequins at Welford Road today is a battle of the underdogs. Best, the Quins director of rugby, insists:
"We are the outsiders." He is who will be a battle of the underdogs, especially when you look at their present form. is a bit inaccurate.

Richards claims that everything is different now given the additions that have been

from various sources over the Cabannes and Bill Davison in the summer. "We have played against people in Harlequins shirts before, but not the same people we will be playing tomorrow. And the style they are following his six-month suspenplaying is different. There is an unknown ele-

ment to them this year compared with the Quins sides we have played over the last couple of seasons. The two Llewellyn brothers in the second-row, Lau-

made to the Harlequin squad in the front row and Laurent having a private shoot-out to see Neil McCarthy, a recent draftee in qualifying, while their oppoback three make it six out of eight changes in the pack alone."

Neil Back has his second match in the Tigers' back-row sion with Rob Liley being retained ahead of his brother, John, as goal-kicker. Robbie Paul's injury means Will Carling returns to centre and he has lost the goal-kicking role to out-side-half Paul Challinor. Ac-Dawe (elbow) and Gareth rent Benezech and Keith Wood cording to Best the pair are Adams (shoulder) are out, while

who is on form but Challinor starts as kicker anyway.

One goal-kicker who is going to miss out is Bath's full-back Jon Callard. He has been dropped in favour of Jason Robinson for the tie at Cardiff, with Mike Catt taking over the kicking duties. Henry Paul, Bath's other Wigan rugby league back, is on the bench.

to England's ever-growing training squad is overlooked – means Gary French turns out for only his ninth first-team match in two

and a half seasons with the club. In the other tie being played today. Dax meet the holders Toulouse in a repeat of last season's French championship semi-final, which the latter won. It does not look too promising for Lianelli in the other quarterfinal at Brive tomorrow. The end and Ireland's Jonathan Bell

Harlequins try to adopt mantle of underdogs

There is more hope for Northampton, Britain's sole representatives in the secondary competition, the European Conference. They entertain Narbonne, one of seven French sides to reach the last eight. Tim Rodber has recovered from a gash in a leg which needed seven stitches last week, and Saints have Scotland's Gregor Towns-Scarlets lost two pool matches and Allen Clarke back.

England's new boys have to play on

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The Bristol lock Simon Shaw will be alone in taking the traditional day off today as he prepares to make his England debut against Italy at Twickenham next Saturday. That luxury is not afforded to his fellow new caps, Tim Stimpson, Adehaya Adebayo and Andy Gomersuli.

Bristol's failure to reach the European Conference quarterfinals sees Shaw resting his 6ft 9in frame during another busy round of European and domestic fixtures.

Adebayo is on the wing for Bath at Cardiff in the European Cup, while the Newcastle fullback Stimpson and the Wasps scrum-half Gomersall lead their clubs' bid for two more precious league points.

Wasps will go second on points difference behind the First Division leaders Harlequins if, as expected, they defeat struggling London Irish at Sunbury.

Gomersall is partnered by the England replacement Alex King, Va'aiga Tuigamala re-turns from Western Samoan duties in Ireland, while the ex-Bath pair Damian Cronin and Andy Reed form an all-Scottish

second-row partnership.
Today's other rearranged First Division game takes Gloucester to Orrell, with their coaching director, Richard Hill, predicting a victory which would put them alongside Bristol in eighth place. "Orrell will play with real local pride and de- 🦚 termination, but I am very confident after our win at West Hartlepool last Saturday," Hill

Stimpson declined an offer to sit out Newcastle's Second Division match at London Scottish. Newcastle's scrum-half Gary Armstrong is ruled out by rib trouble, an injury which threatens to ruin his chances of joining the Newcastle player/coach Rob Andrew in the Barberians lineup against Australia at Twickenham on 7 December.

Richmond should not encounter too many problems when they visit Nottingham, but second-placed Coventry can expect a much tougher time at Bedford, who have been beaten only once in seven league outings since mid-September. Tim Grady, of Edinburgh

Wanderers, has been banned for 18 months following an incident in which an opponent suffered facial injuries.

The Scottish Rugby Union have suspended Grady until 16 May, 1998, after he was cited following an incident in his side's Tennents National League match against Portobello FP last month:

Scott Hastings, Scotland's most-capped player, has signed a full-time contract with the SRU, bringing the number of professionals to 40. The 31-yearold centre, who was dropped for Scotland's match against Australia last Saturday, did not sign up straight away when offered a contract.

There has also been no commitment from the winger Ken Logan, who is rumoured to have been approached by a leading English club. Peter Wright and Stewart Campbell are also holding back from signing contracts.

League celebrates **Australian ruling**

Rugby League

Super League overcame the last remaining legal threat to its proposed kick-off in Australia next year when the country's Australian Rughy League leave to appeal against an earlier ruling which freed the Super League to start in 1997.

The court ruling ends a 14-month legal wrangle and means the 10-team Super League will run in direct competition to the 12 teams in the existing ARL Premiership next season. It also gives the Super League

International Board the green light to launch a series of global contests at club and international level, including a 22-team World with St Helens on Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Club Championship.
The news delighted the Britsh Rugby League with their broadcast manager, Dave Callaghan,

saying: "This gives us a marvellous opportunity to take the concept of Super League forward. We now plan a series of exciting announcements, starting next week when more details will be unveiled about the

World Club Championship." The League's chief executive, Maurice Lindsay, expressed relief at the end of the protracted court case. "It has been an enormous strain on everyone," he said. "We now have the opportunity to promote rugby league as it has never been seen before.

without the nagging doubt that a court might alter things."

The Rupert Murdoch-backed Matches between the 12 European Super League teams and the 10 Australian sides will be announced next Wednesday.

The ARL chairman, Ken high court in Sydney denied the Arthurson, said the eventual winner in Australia would now be decided by the quality of the rival competitions. "The good news is that the arguments are now confined to the football field," Arthurson said.

Wigan's quartet of players currently playing rugby umion, Henry Paul (Bath), Va aiga Tuigamala (Wasps), Gary Con-nolly (Harlequins) and Jason Robinson (Bath), will be back for the club's challenge matches and New Year's Day.

> TODAY'S NUMBER

The points that Motherwell have let slip in their last five games in the Scottish Premier Division. Today, they travel to Rugby Park to face Kilmamock who are level on points with Motherwell in next-to-bottom place.

HUNTINGDON HYPERION

1.00 Mr Percy 1.30 Belmarita 2.00 Lively Knight (nb) 2.30 Elburg 3.00 Shining Light 3.35 Menelave

Right-hand, level course. Run-in 200wis. Course is a Jametom of Al and AUO. Humingdon railwation (service from London, Ning's Cross) Im. ADMISSION: bets \$12: Tattersalls \$8; Course \$4. CAR PARE; Free.

BLINESERD FIRST TIME: Daring Ryde (viscred, 1.00).
WINNESS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: Lasy Turky (3.35) won on the Flat as Folkestone on Monday.
LONG-DEFFANCE SUNNESS: Bood Music (1.00). Kingflaker Brave (1.30) & Tunnese (3.16) have been sext 166 miles by M Mongher from Westhead, Lancasture.

1.00 KIMBOLTON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E)
£3,000 added 2m 1.10yds
1 0335-1 MR PERCY (57) (50) 1 Gibrd 5 11 5 P Hide
2 PAP BREA AU RHUM (\$2) I Wisens 4 10 12 D Gallagter
3 00 CHARRIES BAY (7) 1 Pearce 8 10 12 N Misens
4 0 ARRIES BROE (7) 1 STATE 5 10 12 AS Sente V
5 0r LOOKING PORARAMESOW (1,522) Bob Jones 8 10 12V Smith
6 000 MRTIN TOM (1,94) J Alen 6 10 12 Mry Lyone
1 MRTINITE TOMERS (100) Mrs | Devem 4 40 12 8 MUDLARK J Norson 4 to 12. W F ny
9 5 MARPHYS GOLD (9) R Paley 5 10 12 R Marky
10 03234 MASHAT (1934) (9) M Crepmen 8 10 12 W Worthington
11 4 OTHAVIO PARKESE (105) A Hitle 4 10 12 L Appell (3)
12 0/1020-2 PEACE LORD (20) Mrs J Harrier 5 10 12 R J Hopel (3)
13 0 ROOD MUSIC (10) M Meagher 5 10 12 R J Hopel (3)
14 0- ROSSELL ISLAND (200) Mrs J Parker 5 10 12 R J Norson 5
16 0023 QUARER WALTZ (33) TOLD 6 10 7 3 Michell
17 December Section Completed (3) 1 Mrs (4) 17

P ROSSLAYNE SERENADE (20) R WESLES 5 10 7. - 17 declared -BETIONS: 9-4 Mr Percy, 4-1 Peace Lord, 6-1 Meximore Towers, 8-1 Ob-tanto Famose, 19-1 Nashant, 12-1 Quaker Weltz, 16-1 others

1.30 SOUTHOE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) ALARECO (FR) | Williams 10 10 EUROBOX BOY (22) A Javes 10 10

FLINT AND STEEL BOD JONES 10 10 V Small
RAYNIC GREEN (FR) (63) N Walker 10 10 A McCurtin
RAYNIC GREEN (FR) (63) N Walker 10 10 A McCurtin
RAYNIC GREEN (FR) (10) M Meagher 10 10 W Fr
REAST MCONNECT (22) I Notate 10 10 W Fr
REAST MCONNECT (22) I Notate 10 10 J R Knowneg O SIX CLERIUS (LA) Fiz Gerald 10 10. SOLDER WAR A Hote 10 10

50 ANOTHER QUARTER (9) M Chapman 10 5... W Worth BELMARITA G Hubbard 10 5... R.1 CLASSIC DAISY R Soper 10 6..... 5 FLOR (1/4) J Peace 10.5 30 LEBEDWING (1/4) Mrs P Sy 10.5. POWTEVEDRA K Morgan 10.5..... PRECIOUS ISLAND P Delton 10.5. - 15 SECISTED
BETTENE: 4-1 Phylog Green, 9-2 Stx Clarks, 5-1 Belesterita, 13-2 Magdebor Bravo, 9-1 Royal Then, 10-1 Pontevadra, Soldier Mair, 12-1 others

2,00 TOSELAND NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m 4f 110yds ## 1.10 ## 1.1

2.30 BUSINESS CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 3m 2f FOL415- ULINEU (2005) (200) C Montock 8 11 11 _____ J R Reventing 34110-0 ARTHBURD (21) (RF) Mrs J Phrent 6 11 7 _____ W Member 13/RP-31 EULINE (8) T George 5 10 10 ______ R Johnson 5/30227 RUBRES BOY (560) N Walker 10 10 0 ______ A 5 Seenie

eer sen BETTRIC: 6-4 ERung, 3-1 lihuns, 4-1 Adithmetic, 5-1 Singlesole, 7-1 Re-

3.00 MACER GIFFORD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 4f 110yds 1 115-230 COMB D'ESTRUMAL (FR) (7) (CD) G Baking 6 11 10_ 2 37.6102- DENMER BAY (235) (D) J Gritori 9 11 8 _____ L Aspell (3) 3 221.14- PUREDAN (CAN) (2.12) (D) N Tonds 7 11 3 ____ Mass P Jones 6 4 1229-3 RUSTIC ARR (15) (D) J Rockends 9 10 8 _____ N Duras 5 47.7003- ACT OF PARLIAMENT (2004) (D) K Balley 6 10 7 _____ S MicHell 8

- 7 doctored - 1. American weight: 10 - 1. American weight: 10 - 10 Berner Benging weight: 10 - 10 Berner Benging weight: 10 - 10 Berner Benging Weight: 10 - 10 Coeff O'Estrovel, 5 1 Shining Light, 6-1 Rustic Air, 10-1 Act Of Parliament, 11-1 Parliam

3.35 WILLINGHAM HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 110yds 1 205204- TEMANO GOLD (USA) (238) (D) P Bradey 6 11 12. 295-700 MAGDIELIA (185) (CD) J Pearce 8 to 10 ... M Mann 55,15,10 PEARSIS BAY (1,4) (5) 1891 D Cardino 5 to 6 ... S MeMed 10300-2 TANSEED (1.5) (D) M Medgher 5 to 1 ... J. Wyer U12272 LIICY 1871Y (245) J Pearce 5 to 0 ... V Smith - 9 declared -

Minimum weight: 10st. True handing weight: Lucy Tudy 9g 120, BETTING: 7-4 Manalawa, 4-1 Lord Maldamough, 9-2 Handeltin No 1 Tejang Gold, 15-2 Tananan, 8-1 Tim, 12-1 others

Maria Maria HYPERION 7.00 Amaryllis 7.30 Hill Farm Dancer 8.00 Garnock Valley 8.30 So Amazing 9.00 Figlia 9.30 Sharp Command GOING: Standard.

GOING: Standard.

STALLS: 77 & 1 m 6/168pd — outside; remainder — inside.

DEAW ADVANTAGE; high from 6/100 lm 4f.

Fibresand, left-hand, oval course.

Gousse is N of town on A449. Wolverhampton station 1 m. AD
MISSION: Carb 5.15; Tattersalis 56 (OAP members of Dismond
Clob 5.4); Viewing Restaurant 525.00 including entrance and meal.

CAR PARK Free.

BLUNKERED FIRST TOME: None.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SKYEN DATE: None.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Western Venture (7.30), Nata (8.00) and Campagnows (9.00) have been sent 384 miles by R McKel-iar from Learnington, Strathclyde, What Jim Wants (8.30) sent 81 miles by J J O'Neill from Skelton Wood End, Cambria. 7.00 POPLAR MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2YO 7f

DESIGNATION OF SHARMS SEED OF SHARMS = 9 declared =
HETTENG: 47 Jennaylis, 9-2 Star Entry, 7-1 Double Eight, 9-1 Colles Choice,
16-1 Little Acors, Patine, 20-1, others

7.30 ROWAN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F)

-5 declared --5 declared -SETTING: 5-4 Shaffishtyes, 2-1 HB Farm Dencer, 5-1 Cineals Ballet, 6-1 Red Phantom, 16-1 Wostern Venture 8.00 S J DOOMS & SONS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 8f ### A20403 DISCRES DANCER (24) (CD) & Ason 5 10 0 _____ S Drowne 2 000002 TRUE (11) (D) M Johnson 4 9 12 _____ D Holland 11, 40000 SHOULDHOUSE (12) (S) (D) TO BROW 7 9 30 _____ Dean McKeeten 18 00300 PORTIBID (85) (D) S R Bondog 4 9 8 _____ C Tengine (3) 1 8 000506 MARSSANT (14) (D) R McKeeter 3 9 3 _____ T Williams 7 00400 TART AND A MALE (60) B Medical 4 9 2 _____ T Williams 1 2 220221 REPOSING TRUE (28) (20) Men G McKeeter 5 9 1 ____ S Schools 3 8 220221 REPOSING TRUE (28) (20) Men G McKeeter 5 9 1 ____ S Schools 3 8

6 604020 TART AND A MALE (SQ) B Madren 4 9 2 Mr Tehbatt 13
7 22021 mmPosing Tare (sq) (CQ) Miss G McCowy 5 9 1... S Sandens 3 R
6 (50260 PRIMA SUN (CL) (Q) Mr Ron 5 9 0 G Carter 5 8
9 000100 GARNOCK WALLE (CL) (Q) Mr Ron 5 9 0 G Carter 5 8
10 441000 DECI ANDO (1) 9 Reling 3 8 7. T Sportes 9
11 565000 GASTLERGA UD (11) (Q) R Helinghead 7 8 6... F Lynch (S) 12
12 04-5100 STEAL EM (EA) A Belley 3 8 8 ... D Wight 3
13 350042 MISST HARBORN (28) MRS S WENT 3 8 0 ... D R McCobe 6
-15 declared SETTING 3-1 Imposing Time, 5-1 Tiler, 6-1 Ziggy's Duncer, 7-1 Turt And
A Half, 6-1 Sandichome, 10-1 Garnock Valley, 12-1 othere

8.30 ESSENCE OF CLOCKS (LICHFIELD) HAND-ICAP (CLASS D) £4,000 added 1m 100yds

9.00 PLYVINE CATERING SELLING STAKES (CLASS 6) £3,000 added 2YO 57 (CLASS G) £3,000 added 270 Sf

1 520234 THIGER'S SURPRISE (9) (D)) Boding 9 2 ... IN Carllate 1 B

54906 FIT FOR THE JOB (42) W G M Turner 8 11 ... D Senency (7) 5

1 000 AMSTER FOLEY (42) N Lummoris 8 11 ... D Senency (7) 5

6 60000 CANTSONYOW (9) R Modeller 8 5 ... T Williams 3 B

6 343335 EMCAMITICA (4) I Berry 8 6 ... T Williams 3 B

7 343206 ESWITHE (5) M Tomolers 8 6 ... T Champook 8 B

8 24206 ESWITHE (5) M Tomolers 8 6 ... R Mailler (7) 4

9 60 MSS DARLING (4) I Mehurs 8 6 ... Sanders 9

10 56400 MUNICIPAL SRL (5) B Poling 8 6 ... T Synthe 2

25 TITHE 7 4 Figis, 9 4 Enchaptica, 6-1 Le Stuttle, 8-1 Timbar's Surprise, 10-1 Sparking Edge, 14-1 Fit For The Joh, 15-1 others

9.30 HAWTHORN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 6f 166yds

Peter Bowen's star chaser The Blue Boy has had to be put down after breaking a shoulder. The eight-yearold sustained the injury when falling heavily at Thunton on Thursday. His owner, Tom Morris, refused to let the horse be destroyed at the racecourse, insisting on a sec-ond opinion, but the shoulder was so badly broken that the only humane option was to put the horse down. Bowen said: "I just can't believe it, we're all absolutely gutted He did so much for the owners and when the horse was right he always ran good races. There was no way the owner would let him be put down until he was 100% certain he could not be saved. The Blue Boy won over £47,000 in prize-money for connections, winning 15 races

EPENDENT

k Summa Shaw) biking the $\alpha_{\rm ta}$ today as he prec his England tale at Iwicken. Lay That luxury o he tellow new pson. Adebayo ndy Gennersall ne to reach the creace quarter. Clesting bayon is another busy pean and dowith wing for

othe Panagram Newcastle full. and the \tilde{W}_{asp} creatilead their тикас расская. econd on pounts id the English

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Greencard

Kelleway's Lady to pull her weight in Gold Cup

For two generations of printers, the Mackeson Gold Cup at Cheltenham marked the spiritual opening of the National Hunt season, and though noone ever actually bought the product it promoted, it is still sad to find it transformed this afternoon into the Murphy's Gold Cup. Backers who resent this change have two options. The first might be termed the at around 6-1. Indeed, several Prince approach: simply refer to of the market leaders are too the contest at all times as "the race formerly known as the Mackeson". Rather less wordy

and infinitely more appealing is option two: drink Beamish. What it is impossible to do, however, is ignore today's big race, in which only one of the 12 runners - Bavard Dieu - will go to post without at least a small chance of success. For Dublin Flyer, the top weight, a guaranteed place in turf trivia quizzes beckons as the last horse to win the Mackeson and

more popular in the grand- stand out. Strong Medicine may stand. For many spectators, his stirring fight-back on the runmonths ago was a moment which nothing in the remainder of the season could better, and if he jumps with his usual flair today, a second victory is a distinct possibility. Yet it is difficult to forget how

poorly Dublin Flyer ran in the Gold Cup in March, and from a 6lb higher mark than last year, he hardly demands support short to offer value, not least Challenger Du Luc, who may find the ground a little lively and is not the most reliable jumper. Big Matt, meanwhile, could fin-ish only third last year but is 4lb higher in the weights today, and though Addington Boy's form is solid enough, it is wortying that Tony Dobbin, Gordon Richards's stable jockey, prefers to ride The Gray Monk at Ayr.

to ride The Grey Monk at Ayr. Since the bookies have been offering odds on today's race for a fortnight, it is not surprising the first to win the Murphy's, and few outcomes would be tant memory, but two prices do

be 81b out of the handicap, but he has won his last two races. in to beat Egypt Mill Prince 12 represents one of Britain's best yards and will run much better than this morning's quotes of 25-1 suggest. But it is the 11-1 about Absalom's Lady (next best 2.55) which really stands out.

Gay Kelleway has captured punters' imaginations as a shrewd and talented trainer on the Flat, but proved that she is

RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: Highbank (Ayr 1.35) NB: Chief's Song (Cheltenham 2.20)

when saddling Absalom's Lady to land a gamble in the Haldon Gold Cup at Exeter this month. "She won quite well there

even though she needed the race," Kelleway said yesterday, "and David [Bridgwater] had to pick her up and carry her home. He's very keen to run, and he thinks she's got a great chance. She needs an enthusiastic rider, she's only as good as the man best out of her.

"Her jockey's probably more confident than I am, but then I worry too much, that's always been my problem. The decision to run was the owner's, not mine, but he knows her better than I do and he feels she'll never get this sort of weight [10st 11b) in a race like this again." Fast ground at Cheltenham

has resulted in a shortage of runners, but the handicap hurdle which precedes the feature event has a field of nine, most of whom hold a chance. Crack On, an easy winner at Sandown seven days ago, and Just Little, whose winning form is more recent still after her victory at the course yesterday, will be popu-lar, but a better choice could be COUNTRY STAR (2.20). Charlie Brooks's runner has progressed almost unnoticed into a very useful burdler, having run two of his last three races in France, and will be ideally suit-

ed by this trip and going. Financial interests should be kept to a minimum in the remaining races at Cheltenham.

on top and David really gets the novices' hurdle very closely. Green Green Desert, perhaps the most famous faintheart on the Flat last year, won his first outing over hurdles last weekend with such ease that he entered the betting for the Champion Hurdle in March. Even he could not have failed in such a weak field, however, and Herbert Lodge and Kailsah will provide a much sterner

test of character. The Sean Graham Chase at Ayr is worth a trip to the bookies whatever the weather, as Jodami faces The Grey Monk, Morceli and Better Times

At Cheltenham tomorrow, the second running of the Sporting Index Chase, over the cross-country course is the main irrelevant and smart punters will simply hope that there is no repeat of the fatality which marred last year's race.

HYPERIONS TIPS AND THE CARD FOR CHELTENHAMS SUNDAY MEETING WILL: APPEAR IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SURDAY



CHELTENHAM 2.20: The progressive COUNTRY STAR can hold Chief's Song, who seems an improved performer this

2.55: With Dublin Fiyer handi-capped to the hill, Barton Bank too chancy a jumper in this competitive field, Addington Boy requiring fur-

ground, the selection is CHAL-LENGER DU LUC. A winner over

this track and trip at the Festival, he remains well handicapped and may have most to fear from Absalom's Lady, who is unexposed over fences but would prefer a right-handed track, and Strong Medicine, who at last seems to be ready to fulfil his

he was put in his place by ADDBHATON BOY on soft ground at Myr in April. Not for one minute should mall form be taken too senausly—the ground is different and the younger horse 8th better off — but Addington 8by has much more going for him their triet, not least being the form the stable is in, Addington 8by was whisely unbestable over fenoes last season, winning from two and a half miles right up to three and a quarter (Doncaster's Great Yorkshire), and his combination of stamma and pace trialle him an ideal candidate.

ter (Doncaster's Great Yorkshire), and his combination of stammta and pace make him an dead candidate. Dublin Hyer led and came again to pit gap lide Prince in this race less year. Big Matth was staying on under pressure in third when he him the final lence and forfeited any channe he still had. As less year, big

on under pressure in third when he had the final tence and forfieled any Chande he stull had. As isst year, had Mart has storied the season with a namow defeat over two males at Asont and secret help to be thereabouts again, although a 2th pull for the four and a half langing bubbut fiyer beat him does not seem enough. East-hoppe's run of an straight wars last season came to an end when Mahreet proved four lengths too good in the Grand Annual at the Festival. A 5th pull in Easthorpe's favour leaves precious tottle in it, and although Easthorpe has yet to win beyond two males, he got two and a half males tried when Strong Medicine beat rum a length and a half at Newtony on his reappearance. He should not have too much trouble restraing that form on a stone better terms and tooks a danger. There is a grong possibility they will go too that for Ratton Rank over a time should not not set a too what the mistables she while Athenican's ladin and not set along with the mistables she

Barton Bank over a trip short of his best, while Absalpea's Lady will not get away with the nistokes she made at Exeter in this company. As promising a nowce as Strong Promise is, he is up against if for a live-year-old - and from 19th out of the handicap - but the limb challenger Anababic must come into it all the statement of the handicap - but the limb challenger Anababic must come into it all the statements. The statement of the handicap - but the limb challenger Anababic must come into it all the statements.

3.30 FLOWERS ORIGINAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) C4

Willsford needed a run to put him right before going on to beat Earth Summit off a handicap rating of 150

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Evangelica 9sr 10%. Frozen Drop 8st 10%. BETTING: 8-4 Martonich, 11-4 Evangelica, 3-1 Copper Nine, 11-2 Willistord 1995: Willistord 12 12 0 W Morston 9-2 Ohrs Phrman) 8 ran

3.30: MARTOMICK, who is yet to show she is fully recovered from the injury that has interrupted her ca-

£10,055

undoubted potential.

4.05: GREEN GREEN DESERT

was never the bravest horse on the Flat and had such moderate oppohurdles that his courage did no come into question. Still the alter-natives make little appeal with both Herbert Lodge and Kailash winning

ıld

Moore switches stables

Gary Moore, at present training at Ermyn Lodge Stables, Epsom, will soon be leaving to take Woodingdean, near Brighton.

over his father Charlie's yard at That's it - I mean it this time. Charlie Moore, 70, who sent out Apollo Red, a winner on Lingfield's card yesterday, said as he greeted the gelding ridden yard."

by his daughter Candy Morris: "I shall not be renewing my li-cence at the end of January.

"Gary will be coming back to take over and I'm delighted. It was always my ambition that he would start training from my

RACING RESULTS

CHELTENHAM 1.15: 1. DANCING VISION (Mr J T Mc-Namere) 4-1; 2. Coolree 9-4 far; 3. Mars Mood 18-1. 6 ras. 1½, 8. (Fric McNamer-ra, Rambask, Ob Limerick, Tote: £4.00; £1.80. £1.80. Dual Forecast: £5.00. Com-nuter Structure Engrant puter Straight Forecast: £12.77.
1-50: 1. HUNTING LORE (M A Fitzgarald)
9-4; 2. Supermodel 20-1; 3. Leap in The
Dark 68-1. 7 ran. 8-11 fav Courbent (felf).
1%, 9. N Hendeson, Lambounth, Totar £3.00;
£1.70, £3.90. Dual Forecast: £17.40. CSF:
£33.83...

2.25: 1. KONVEKTA KING U Osbornet 10-

3.00: 1.81ST LITTLE (CF Swert) 8-13 far; 2. Micro-Lond 9-2; 3. Sumanut 25-1. 4 ran. 7, 21. (A O'Brien, Co Carlow, Republic of Ireland). Tota: £1.60. Dual Forecast: £2.00. (SF: 23.56. 35: 1. STORMETRACKER (M Richards) 8-

2. Factor Yen 15-8. 4 ran. 8-13 tay The 1. 2 Factor ten 10-8. 4 Fan. 8-13 by the Last Fing (unseated wider). Detance. (C Wesdon, Chaldinghid). Netw. £7.80. Dual For-cast: £4.80. CSF: 221.48. Only two first-hed. 4.05: 1. WORLD ENFRESS (D Saler) 5-2; 2. Resentions 10-11 far; 3. Staumch Ri-

AYR 12.25; 1. ENDOWNENT (P Niver) 5-4 fav. 2. Grendinare 6-4; 3. BBTs Pride 50-1. 11 ran. 3, 27. (Mrs M Reveley, Satiburn). Totac £1.50; £1.00, £1.90, £3.70. Dual Forecast:

Top: £13.20.

12.50: 1. LATIN LEADER (D Parker) 4-1:
2. Tall Measure 5-1: 3. Highland Park 92. 11 run. 7-2 lev Stane River (4th). 4, 1:
(C Parker, Lockethie). Total: £5.10: £1.90.

(C Parier, Locierbie). Total: £5.10; £1.50, £1.80, £2.10. DF: £29.50. CSF: £24.61. Tr-cast: £86.07. (nor £31.60. 1.30; £ CLARE MAID (A Dobbin) 3-1; 2. Jimmty Gemeral 7-1; 3. Feslam Court 16-tics of £1.50. 1, 10 ran. 9-4 fav Golf Land (6th), 4, 21/2. iG Richards, Greystoke), Tote: £3.00; £1.40.



2.05: 1. SPARKY GAYLE (B Storey) 2-1 It fav; 2. Bold Boss 11-2; 3. Jack Doyle 8-1.14 ras. 2-1, it av. Castervay (5th). 12, 4. (G Parler, Lockerbe). Toker 53.00; £1.30, £2.40; £4.50. DF: £13.00. CSP, £12.58. Tree £24.40.

2.40: 1. LOCHNAGRAIN (P Neer). 4-6 far.

2.40: 1. LOCHNAGRAIN (P Meet) 4-6 tev.
2. Muso 7-1; 3. Phartare 3-1. 6 ran. shtht; 14. (Ms M Reveley, Sathurn). Totec
£1.60: £1.40. £2.40. DF: £3.90. CSF.
£5.93. NF: Majority Major.
3.15: 1. MONNAIE FORTE U Raiton) 121; 2. Bells Hill Lad 14-1; 3. Discoond Sprille
£5-1. 7 rat. 10-11 tev Blue Charm filef). 10,
dist. U Arbarn). Totec £10.90; £2.50, £4.80.
DF: £78.10. CSF: £128. 44. Tricast:
£3.69: 20. Trice £54.50. Non Runners Kitulla, Random Harvest & Reve de Valse.
3.46: 1. TRAP DANCER (A Dobbr) 3-1;
2. Bedle Rossibale evens fay; 3. Phare £cho

2. Bold Foostpile evens far; 3. Pher Echo 10-1. 11, ren. 7, 10. (P. Monteith, Rosewel). Tota: £3.30; £1.50, £1.00; £2.40. DF; £3.10. CSF: £6.21. Trio: £15.10. Non Runner: Crash-

Jackpot: not won (pool of £2,784.36 carried forward to Windsor (pday).
Placepot: £751.80, Quedpot: £92.20, Place 6: £262.67. Place 5: £209.43.

LINGFIELD

12.05: 1. APOLLO RED (Cardy Monts) 6-1; 2. Spelding 7-2 fay; 3. Ivor's Deed 16-£1.20, £1.60, £3.60. Dua Forecast: £9.00. CSF: £26.68. Trio: £80.30. Non River: Stip

12,35: 1. KALAR (A Cuftere) 12-1; 2.

12.35: 1. NALAR (A Cufners) 12-1; 2. Ramsey Hope 5-1; 3. Another Batchworth 2-1 St. 9 res. 2, %. (D Chapmen). Totac £14.70; £4.70, £2.30, £1.10, DF: £50.30. CSF: £73.68. Hotest: £187.20. Thix £14.20, Non Runner: Mystey Mattikas.

1.05: 1. CHENICAST (R Lappin) 11-1; 2. Napier Star 7-2 tax; 3. Sharp Pearl 16-1. 10 res. nk, 1%. (J L Byre). Totac: £10.70; £2.50, £1.30, £3.60, Dusf Forecast: £31.10. CSF: £45,43. Tricast: £577,35, Tota Trica £13.200.

1.40; 1. REBUKE § Sunders 8-1; 2. Eka-

£132.00.

1.40: 1. REBUIKE (S Sunders) 8-1; 2. Blasterini Partial 6-1; 3. Slightty Oliver 9-4 fav. 8 sie., 3, 3. (R johnson Hougman). Tete: £14.10; £3.90. £1.60. £1.10. DF. £39.00. CSF: £50.57. No bid for the winner.

2.15: £1.0EPPLY VALUE (S Whitworth) 7-4 fav. 2. Recoste Value (12-13. Share in 12-13. Share in 12-13. Share in 12-13. 4 far, 2. Barosta Valley 12-1; 3. Sharp 'n Smirt 1:3-2, 12 ran, sht-hd, 5. (6 L Moore). Tota: £2.80; £1.30, £4.20, £1.90. DF, £48,40, CSF: £23.11. Tro: £77.00. 2.50; 1.0008LE ESPRESSO (M Rocerts) 11-8 fav; 2. Nobis Hero 14-1; 3. Kafeer Kaçbe 4-1, 9 zan, 4, ½, jM Johnston). Tota: £2.00; £1.30, £3.20, £1.90. Dust Forecast: £17,50, CSF: £19,88. Tripast: £58,43. Trip: £64.10.

£64.10.

3.26: 1 PERSUASION (D Hamson) 9-4;
2. Go Too Moor 14-1; 3. Keen Companion
14-1. 9 ran, 11-8 fav Lavender Defa (4th),
8. 5. (Lord Hartington), Tooter £3.00; £1.90,
£9.00, £4.90. DF: £66.50, CSF: £31.48. Tro:
£196.20 (per won, pool of £201.71 to Cheirenham 2.55 today),
3.55; 1. HOOPPRINTS (J Qurm) 3-1.1 tay;
2. Tamiyar 7-2; 3. Our Main Man 6-1. 8 ran,
3-1.1 tay Stailed, 3, 11-6, Mas A Person, Tote;
£3.90; £1.30, £1.90, £1.50, DF: £10.20,
CSF: £13.35, Titeast: £51.51.

HYPERSON 2.55 CHALLENGER DU LUC (nap) 1.45 Potter's Bay 3.30 Martomick 2.20 Country Star 4.05 Green Green Desert ■ Left-hand, galloping course with stiff fences. Uphill run-in of 240yd.
■ Course is nr junction of A229 and A330. Rull aution adjoins course. ADMISSION:
Club £20 (Juniors 16-24 £12); Tattersalls £15 (sundents £7.50); Foster's Enclosure £5. CAR PARK: Free

Committee of the Commit

Ten Conference D. (Schmister, 22) — Very Promising (1986), Accepter Comp. (1991); J. (Sillion (2) — Sanghay San (1986) is 194; T. (Sinder — Pegnell Bay (1988), Double Sper (1986).

ELRADING TRAINERS WITH EUNNERS: N A Twiston-Device −31 winners from 205 minners gives a success ratio of 15.1% and a loss to a \$1 level stake of \$25.97; D Nicholson −28 winners, 161 minners, 17.4%, \$17.99; M Pipe −22 winners, 231 manners, 12.1%, \$75.11; K Bailey − 19 winners, 83 runners, 22.9%, \$9.43.

■ LRADING JOCKETS: R Denwoody −35 wins, 191 rides, 18.8%, +55.80; A Magnire − 24 wins, 153 rides, 15.7%, \$63.00; N Williamson − 20 wins, 83 rides, 24.1%, +538.00; J Osborse - 19 wins, 147 rides, 13.9%, -571.81.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: Crack On (2.20) & Strong Medicine (2.55) both
won at Sandown lest Sturdsy; Dreums End (2.20) won at Wincaston lest Saurdsy; Green
Green Desert (4.05) won at Unioseter last Sahnday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Addington Boy (2.55) has been sent 230 miles by G Eichurds

1.10 FUGGLES IMPERIAL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 3m 2f Penalty Value £6,645

they writer frequent each erize, me is up July and the safe test of scientific and some compares sectionary to what he was raised in the sentler races less from and this safe test of stammars is designed to hing out the best in him. Georgian's Gaid numbed off last season with four strength wins and so nearly made it five when southed off in television in August. She struggled to bear four Chapel Irec 21(b) at Hereford learn in the month after being handed the race when Wynburg field at the second less and was also before her best when that behind Acrow Line and Eliesket Hero at Newton Abbot in September. Selection: VICTOR BRAVO

1.45 WADWORTH 6X NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £4,765

PORM GUIDE
It was a good bit of training to bring River Tigues bock successfully over hundles at Stradford in September after messing the best part of two seasons, and he gave the well-housed Call Equivarine a bit of a hight at Worcester last month on his change debut. He sheatly had his race won when left well clear by two fallers at the last at Kempton 10 days ago and is a nice prospect, which makes it all the more unfortunate in that he last some up against probably an even better one in POTTIEN'S BMY. Deceme rangel over fundish, Potter's Bay impressed at Wetherby a torthight ago on his first attempt over tences, crusing through to take it up at the second last and had only to be nuclear out to give Random Henriest 13th. They were well clear.

Selections POTTIEN'S BAY 2.20 MURPHY'S DRAUGHTFLOW HURDLE (HANDICAP) C4 (CLASS B) £40,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Val-

1f(3P4-1 CHEP'S SONS (28) (CD) (Mrs Anne Deune) S Dow 6 12 0.

— 9 declared — TING: 11-4 Crack On, 5-1 Country Star, Jant Little, 11-2 Space Trucker, 7-1 Chief's Song, Dreams , 8-1 Myelical City, 12-1 Make A Stand, 25-1 Barra Boy. 1995: Longsome Train (USA) 6 9 9 B Feston 33-1 (C Weedon) 15 ran

Country Star and Make A Stand are behave front-nutriers, and Chief's Song also bises to get on with things, so there should be no quarter given here. One missiae could be curtains, which is what happened to SPACE TRUCKER at Wincarton last Sounday when he was beaten two and a test frengts by Dreams End. The Gastery Hustie runner-up tended stately at the fourth last and hed a bit of number to make up test ground. Dreams End most the stomage in a good bettle from the second-last but a could be a different story this time. Space Trucker had finished seven lengths in front of Dreams End when runner-up to Mystikend City, a next is not of Just Little, in the Gashey Hustie. It was again close when the form two functions and of their two functions are soon driven in Secondaries and time the three the Wincarton run well give fest two fought out a good finish at Ustowel in September and it may be that the Wincamon run well give Space Trucker an edge over the mane. Just Little had also run Space Trucker to a neck at Milliamy in likey though the penalty for her ediorities with here yesterely means she is allow over in compared to Galwayi. Both horses have improved since then and Chief's Song, nine lengths back in fourth that day, may again be ting both on better terms. Crack On 6 much-improved this season and trick the step is

2.55 MURPHY'S GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 3) £60,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penal C4

		Ty Yaide 2-38,270
1	1/21/11P-	DUBLIN FLYER (247) (23) (J B Surmer) Capt T Forster 10 12 0B Powell
2	P4420-2	BARTON BANK (14) (C) (D) (Mrs. J Mould) D Nicholson 10 11 5
3	2111111-	ADDINGTON BOY (210) (D) (Gos Foods Limited) G Richards 8 10 10
4		ANABATIC (14) (D) (William J Phelan) M O'Brien (In 8 10 6T P Radid
5	114215-	KSEREET (231) (C) (Teny Warner) P Hotos 9 10 6
6	31662-2	BIG MATT (IA) (D) (I Bertiekt and Mr W Brown) N Henderson 8 10 4
7	213123-	CHALLENGER DU LUC (FR) (203) (C) (D) A Johnson) M Pape 6 10 2 R Desertody 9
8	11126-2	EASTHORPE (22) (C) (SF) (Mentin Broughton) Miss H Knight 8 10 1
9		ABSALOM'S LADY (11) (Whitcombe Manor Recry) Gay Kelleway 8 10 1 (6e)
10		BAVARD DIEJ. (7) (D) (Saguero Stablesi N Gaselee B 10 ()
		STRONG MEDICINE (7) (C; (D) (Cr D B A Sak) K Bailey 9 10 0 (Sax)
12	24-1211	STRONG PROMISE (14) (CD) (G A Hubbard) G Hubbard 5 10 0 K Gente (3)
		- 12 declared -
協	inum neid	nt: 1.0st. True handicap weight: Strong Medicine 9st 6th, Strong Promise 8st 9th.

BETTING: 9-2 Big Mart, 5-1 Challenger du Luc, 11-2 Addington Boy, Doblin Flyer, 7-1 Morest, 9-1 Anabade, 10-1 Absalom's Ludy, Easthorpe, 20-1 Strong Hedicine, Strong Promise, 25-1 Baward Dieu, 1995: Dublin Flyer 9 11 8 B Powell 4-1 (Captain T Forster) 12 ran

FORD CUDE

No race with Disblin Filyer in - or Barton Bank for that motiler - is run at a false pace. These has been substantial ame-pour inverset in Challengiar Du lune, and things could go his very because he likes to come
from behind of a strong pace. As a Chellantian Festival warrier with only 25 more than the minimum, Chellenger Du Luc is extremely well in, yet the fact remains that, over the top or not after winning the Cathcart,

year dides and well into the veteran stage, the handscaper has given Willsford a lost chance of glory by drop-ong him 10th since he freetand talked-off over an inadequate trip in Soundoon last week. With the lost ground and extreme for in his facult, it is conceptable the old boy could unly bess ragged. But it is difficult is away from MARTIOMICK after her cometack from injury over too short a trip int Wincamon recently, Mantorrack is a class act on her day and was unjucky not have besten Monseur Le Cure in the Sun Alliance is 1994, form she turned found when clearing home Meny Gale at Ampte two seasons ago. She orant well until she hit the fourth-lest and bliew up at Wincarton and less always been more at home on fast ground over three miles blus. Talong time Enough as a yentstick, gives a meleading line botween Copper Miles and Beangelica. Of the two. Copper Miles should be best.

4.05 MACKESON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 2) C4 £14,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £8,792

SOVIET BRIDE (Terry Shapherd) S Dow 4 10 7. BETTING: 9-4 Green Green Desert. 11-4 Kallash, 3-1 Herbert Lodgs, 7-1 Soviet Bride, 25-1 Fords

FORM GUIDE

Soviet Bride, a fair handicapper on the Rat, could be a decent recruit but is thrown in at the deep and against another good Rat handicapper, GREEN IDEEM OF EATH, and the jumping-timed print handicapper, GREEN IDEEM OF EATH and the jumping-timed part hand more about your last eared to show on the Rat but roud on the frushed at Utabaster on his handling debut. While he may not have beaten much, he could have by had the track

What's FREE, worth hundreds of £££'s a **year and will make** other punters green with envy?

The Sporting Life

FIND OUT TODAY IN The Sporting Life

HYPERION 12.35 The Boozing Brief 1.05 Crown Equerry 1.35 Highbank 2.10 The Grey Monk 2.40 Cool Luke

Left-hand galloping course; run-in 210yds.

Course is cost of town on A758. Ayr station (service from Glasgow) 1m. ADMDSSION: Chib 512; Grandstand 57 (OAPs half-price). CAR PARK: Free. SIS BACRIE

3.10 Regal Romper 3.40 Strong Mint

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: The Booking Brief (12.35).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Regal Bomper (3.10) WINNERS IN THE LAST SAVER VICTOR Regar admired (C.17) won at Carlisle on Monday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Arrange A Game (1.05) & Jackho (1.40) have been sent 281 miles by Miss. I Bower from Woolsthorpe Belveir, Lincolnshire, Swyndhod Supreme (12.35) & Royal Citizen sent 212 miles by J Bottomley from Norton, North Yorkshire.

12.35 SEAN GRAHAM NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3YO 2m MAPLETON Mrs S Smith 10 12...... NORTHERN MOTTO J Golde 10 12..... __£ Lee (3) PRECIOUS GIFL D Motars 10 7 SOUNDS DEVIOUS C Pader 10 7....

- 11 deciared -BETTING: 9-4 Globe Russer, 9-2 The Booring Brief, 5-1 Ressel, 9-1 North-em Mottn, 9-1 Mayleton, 10-1 Rattle, 11-1 Procious Girl, 14-1 others

1.05 SEAN GRAHAM NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 3m 1f

1.35 SEAN GRAHAM BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m - 9 decianed Makeuse neight: 10st. Two neight: Markeybri Set St. Asia Manage Set 7b.
BETTING: 7-4 Highbank, 5-2 Sarantian, 4-1 Citizdon, 8-1 Miss Generyands, 10-1 Unionskam, Familiar Art, 20-1 Rudy's Drosso, 25-1 others

2.10 SEAN GRAHAM LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 added 3m 1f

- 5 deck

2.40 SEAN GRAHAM HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 4f

003053- BRANDMAN (253) D Mothet 5 10 2 ______ J Mothet 3124P-4 YOUNG STEVEN (71) Mrs S Bradbure 5 10 0 _____ J Poster Minimum weight 10st Time handton weight Young Steven Sot 13th.
BETTENS: 11-4 Surmt Imp. 7-2 Cool Links, 6-1 Chystal Saft, 7-1 Rhyel Cit-lege, 8-1 Mr Norbrit, Michalas Plant, 10-1 others

3.10 SEAN GRAHAM BOOKMAKERS HANDI-CAP CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m

— 6 Cacares — Minimum weight: 10st. True handlesp weight: Mortrave 9st 7b. BETTING: 2-1 Regal Rouper, 7-2 Hordle Thorn, 4-1 Political Tower, 5-1 All The Aces, 7-1 One For The Pat, 8-1 Mostrave

3.40 SEAN GRAHAM STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,550 addied 2m 0 ARE STREET, AND A STREET, AN

WINDSOR

12.40 No Pattern 1.10 Blasket Hero 1.40 Far Dawn 2.15 Dream Leader 2.50 Monks Jay 3.25 Nahrawall 4.00 Supermick

GOING: Chase course - Good to Firm; Hurdle course - Good.

Figure-of-eight course, Level, with sharp turns, long straights GOING: Chase course — Good to Firm; nuruse course — union.

Figure-of-eight course, Level, with sharp turns, long straights, and a 200yd run-in.

Course is north of town on A308 near junction 6 of M1. Stations at Windsor Central (service from London, Paddington) and Windsor Riverside (service from London, Waterloo) Im. River bus stops at course. ADMISSION: Club \$12; Tanersalis \$8; Salver Ring \$4. CAR PARK: Club \$2; remainder \$1.50 or \$1.

SIS RACING VISORED FIRST TIME: Sterling Fellow (1.40) WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Monks Jay (2.50) won it Wincanton last Saturday. at Wincanton last Saturday. LONG-DISTANCE EUNN ERS: Agemerot (12-40) has been sent 190 miles by A Hobbe from Kingstridge, Devon: Auvasultan sem 186 miles by A Newcombe from Hunshaw, Devor: Seathsole Wind (12.40) & Duhallow Lodge (2.50) sem 173 miles by C R Barwell from Stoodleigh, Devon.

12.40 SCANIA NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,500 added 2m 5F LABURALIM 80LD (11) Ws J Pamen 5 10 12 ___ J Imme 3/0 LEQUESE (14) C Marn 6 10 12 ___ J Mages 3 SAHEL (14) Mailins 8 10 12 SCOTTON
2- SECRET SPRING (FR) (240) Phono: 4 10 12 M Richards
OF SEMINOLE WIND (602) C R Barwel 5 x 12 B Featon

Per SummeALE ventur (ed. 2) if it is in the control of the control

1.10 SCANIA MANAGEMENT NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 3m 13-1213 BLASKET HERO (7) Mrs S Williams 8 10 12 B Fe 5200P-0 DAMICADA (17) A Cental 8 10 12 ... BETTING: 4-7 Blacket Here, 7-2 Grey Corden, 9-2 Secret Bid, 12-1 Dem-cada, 20-1 Hollow Wood, 25-1 The Herbivare

1.40 SCANIA HORSEPOWER NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3YO 2m

COLLEGRAM WHITE COLLEGE (1.4) R M Power 10 1 2 Relition COLLOUR COURSELLOR (1.4) R M Power 10 1 2 Relition FAR BANNN (USA) MES A Perret 10 12 C Mauric GRUENI, HERIET A Moore 10 12 M Betchelor (7) HALF AM NICH 1 Jones 10 12 D Looky HIPPENDONG DANGER K Bodgemer 10 12 Y Sentery HIPPENDONG DANGER K Bodgemer 10 12 F Jousset L Harvey

2.15 SCANIA ACCOUNTS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 4f

2.50 SCANIA TRUCK OF THE YEAR HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000 added 2m 5f

- 5 declared BETTING: 3-1 Monies Joy, 100-30 Too Plank, 9-2 Who's To Say, 5-1 Lake of Longiree, 11-2 Duhallow Lodge, 8-1 Kindic's Oeligist

3.25 SCANIA 4-SERIES NOVICES' HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,500 added 2m BRAYDON FOREST (28) C Drewe 4 10 12 ... Gay Lewis (3) QUEEN OF SHANNON (\$10) A Carol 8 10 7 ... T I Marphy
THEE GOES ON R Hotges 4 10 7 ... T Descende (3)
TREMARE N Gestart 4 10 7 ... J Railten

4.00 SCANIA KING OF THE ROAD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m

Best is yet to come for Bergkamp

Gardening, shopping, goalscoring - they all come easily to Arsenal's debonair Dutchman. He talked to Glenn Moore

The professionals are agreed: Dennis Bergkamp is special.
"A great player," Don Howe,
England's most experienced coach, said. "He's got class," said one of his fellow Premiership strikers, Dean Holdsworth of Wimbledon.

He is even skilful by Dutch standards. Bert van Lingen. staff coach of the Dutch FA and assistant to the national team said: "He has fabulous technical skills."

The public, however, seem to be unsure. Bergkamp's goals are as spectacular as Jürgen Klinsmann's, his sleight of foot more bewitching, his team more successful - Arsenal sit in second place for today's visit to Manchester United, So why has Bergomania not swept the country like Klinsmania did?

It may be because everyone affects to hate Arsenal. It may he because the spotlight has moved on to Ravanelli. Vialli and Zola. But it is more probably because Bergkamp is simply not that type of player. not that type of man. He is undemonstrative on the pitch and private off it.

We met yesterday, just before he boarded the team coach to travel to Old Trafford. He preferred talking about football to his personal life and was eager to quash compar-

He had been quoted as saying he wanted to be more successful here than Klinsmann. but he denied this: "I did not say that. You cannot compare players. Every person is different. Even the way he played at Tottenham is different to the way I play at Arsenal. I was compared for many years to Marco van Basten, but I am not like him either." Bergkamp has played in

Klinsmann's centre-forward role with Internazionale in Italy and, at times, with the Netherlands. At Arsenal, howiys about behind Ian Wright.

change. You have to learn where the space is in each game: that is where I like to go. Ian is a very good player. Easy to find, easy to play with, and a great finisher.

Easy to find. Watch Bergkamp and you see an unselfish, positive player. Howe said: "A lot of forwards in this country come on to the ball, lay it back to midfield and go again. He gets it and he wants to turn and play it into Ian Wright, to go forward."

Bergkamp agreed: "That is what I like most - to go straight to the goal - and Ian is a play-er who wants that as well." Wright's goals are one rea-son why Bergkamp has not

'The football is more attractive here, for the players and the fans. Teams try to score goals'

monopolised the headlines. The other is his lifestyle. He lives quietly with his wife, Henrita, and eight-month-old baby, Estelle, in a leafy area near the northern edge of the M25. He is so settled he even spent his summer break there rather than return to the Netherlands, Life consists of gardening - he has been spotted stocking up at a local garden centre - and "we go for walks, do some shopping. In the evenings we don't do much because of the baby. What's this? Attack-mind-

ed player with "boring Arse-nal"? A quiet family man among a dressing-room famed for its hell-raisers? He must be the odd one out.

where he felt unfairly blamed "I like to play there, but and oppressed by the intensievery game is different," he ty of the dressing room, he is said. "I start there but it can enjoying Arsenal. While rarely

room banter, he feels at ease. "It is much more relaxed." he said. "You are allowed to do your own warm-up and prepa-ration. And we have music. We

don't know in Holland or Italy about music before the game. very loud music too, that is not allowed. It is good. Arsène Wenger has changed a few things - mainly the time we arrive, much earlier - but he has left the music." It will surprise nobody that Wright is the mu-

Van Lingen, speaking from his experience with the Dutch team, added: "He needs a good environment. It is very important that he feels comfortable and he does in England. The atmosphere is more about football, less about the press and business.

Bergkamp said: "The football is fine, the private life is great. I have no complaints. sometimes people recognise you, but they leave you alone. That's nice. You can be yourself. You are not really special in a big town like London. In Italy they want to touch you, to talk to you, to follow you.

The football is more attractive here, for the players and the fans. Teams try to score goals. The fans won't allow you to pass it around the back five or six times. They want it forward. A draw is not enough, even for teams near the bottom.

"It is mainly what I expected, but the standard is much higher than people in other countries think. The first month I was here I found it really hard to get involved in the rhythm of the game, it was so quick."

Today's match will be closely followed in the Netherlands by Wim Bergkamp, his father. A Manchester United fan, he named his son after Denis Law. "I have two n's as Far from it. After Italy, we are only familiar with that for Internazionale's struggles said. "Denis with one n does not really exist."

chance for another compari- He gets chances around the D

son, with Eric Cantona, Howe and he's the best finisher in the Premiership from there. He's said; "People go on about Cantona - how he finds space, the got such variety. He can drill way he combines midfield and it hard and low, he can bend it, he can slam it high into the attack. Bergkamp plays that role as well as anyone. There is another parallel in the way "He's a Rolls Royce, he's so

they play when they are further up. They have both done it and knows just where to be at the neither looked comfortable. right time. And when he gets there he's got a lovely touch: "He doesn't get the headers that Cantona gets, those far-Whether he's playing a little post goals. He could get a few pass, or a flick, or a firm ball more bread-and-butter goals. but he probably thinks he gets quickly what is required and carries it out. His education as enough. Besides, at Arsenal This afternoon's game is a Wrighty is in those positions. a young player must have been

Ajax, but he was a late starter. "I could have joined at nine but Ajax was different. It was all people who thought they were rich but weren't. I didn't like them very much. After a few years it changed. A lot of nor-

smooth, his vision is perfect. He mai players went there and I The electrician's son was given his debut at 16 by Johan Cruyff. At 20 he made his ingoals from 51 games he is now seven behind Faas Wilkes' pre-War Dutch record of 35. He has a better international

a poorer one than Cruyff. In the summer of 1993 he joined Inter for £8m before moving to Arsenal for £7.5m two years later.

The Arsenal fans love him, partly because, as one admit-ted, "he is emblematic of what we want to be". He is stylish, exotic, skilful and envied. Last year he scored 16 goals. This year, despite hamstring and 10 starts - not bad when the best chances are snaffled by

Most importantly for Arse-

Bergkamp was schooled at strike-rate than Van Basten, but nal fans, Bergkamp, unlike-iax, but he was a late starter, a poorer one than Cruyff. Klinsmann, is still here. He shows no sign of wishing to leave

before the end of his four-year deal and he should get better.
"He's done well for Arsenal." Holdsworth said, "but I think there is probably more to come. We've seen a taste."

"I try to be better every year," Bergkamp said. "So far it is better than at this time last season. I am finding my form

"He is a slow starter." Van Lingen concluded. "We think he will go on to bigger achievements.

very similar to us," he said.

Bolton will give a home de-

but to John Sheridan, who is on-

loan from Sheffield Wednesday,

and recall their goalkeeper,

Keith Branagan, after suspen-sion. Alan Thompson is still

banned while Per Frandsen

and Gudni Bergsson face fitness

changed, although Ray Houghton, who has been out for

several weeks with a leg injury.

is near to full fitness again and

manager, is likely to make

changes for the visit of Reading.

Ian Crook and Danny Mills are

expected to make way for Kei-th O'Neill and Carl Bradshaw

Barnsley, who are now fourth.

Norwich lost in midweek to

Mike Walker, the Norwich

travels with the squad.

Palace are likely to be un-

lured

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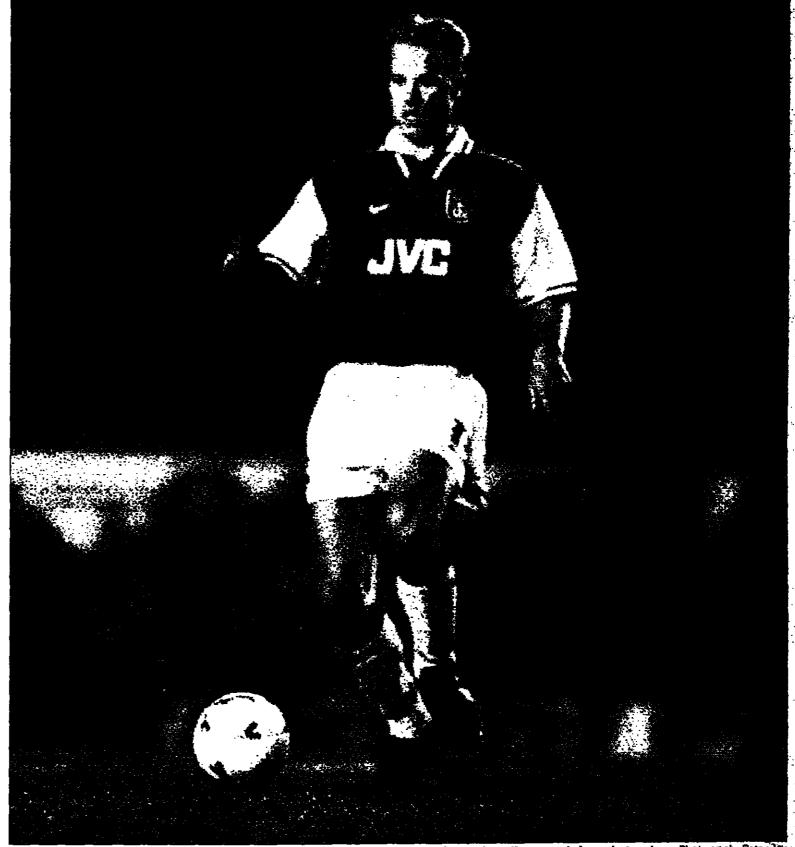
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Sured.

Eve the So Newcon West Country Premier Sadh, a financial financial for the sure of the sure of



Bergkamp enjoying Highbury's open spaces against Stoke this week: 'You have to learn where the space is in each game'

England No 192 by Brent Molyneux es a smile created by Ken

Anyone looking for trouble steers well clear of the England Travel Club. A vetting process which nuts MI5 to shame, the only criminal record these guys have got is "Diamond Lights". They are the Jehovah's Witnesses of the modern game: Funtasy Football meets Songs of Praise; Statto meets Dennis Hopper. We've all paid £300 to leave Luton at 10.30pm on Friday and arrive in Tbilisi at dawn on Saturday. A five-hour flight. Dennis

Bergkamp gags all round. Someone standing next to me starts telling a customs officer at Toilisi airport that he hasn't missed a Blyth Spartan's away match in five years. He doesn't blink. He doesn't smile. Nor does the customs officer.

Deposited in Republican Square at ⁹am local time, we make for the Meteche Palace Hotel, temporary headquarters for the Football Association. We hope to breakfast with Glenn and the team but when we get there the players are up, out of view, on the ninth floor playing combat video games to ward off homesickness. A sign at the hotel entrance requests that automatic weapons be left in reception. Everyone in the lobby has a moustache. I become confused. Why is John Gorman serving me coffee? Four suitors from HMS Nottingham sit in the bar. I crack a weak gag about having seen Seaman. We get a taxi back into town - a while knuckle ride of the Patrick Kluivert variety. I look closely at the driver in case Tony Adams is fluent in Georgian. Plack in town, we do the

sights. We check out the Sovi-

et monoliths, the Armenian

Orthodox churches, and the

es us. I ask him if the funicular

Dodd's orthodontist, "Spartak Moscow," he replies. At least he's not from Hampshire. A Geordie with a guide book tells us to visit the "famous sulphur baths". When we get there we find a shower room packed with naked Georgians, hung like donkeys and grinning like Em-Back at base, our fellow trav-

ellers have pitched camp in bars a short pass from the drop-off point. The talk is of Christmas trees and wing-backs, Kinkladze and Gascoigne. At the back of my mind memories stir - memories of Max Boyce - "At least I can say I was there." Perhaps he should bring his act to Tbilisi. Judging by the shops they would book him for the leeks. People criticise the beer. Nobody mentions Manchester City.

Six hours after we arrive are collected by a fleet of FA coaches and make our way under police escort to the Boris Paichaidze stadium. We are told our hosts are "notoriously partisan" and fear the worst. The Georgians start strongly. Our coaches met by a throng of moustaches. clenched-fist salutes and pictures of a smiling Graham Taylor. The police band, attuned by years of Soviet rule to trying mind games, play both verses of the national anthem. After a pause we sing the first verse again. First blood. Ultimately, however, the home support disappoints. We start channing, "You're supposed to be at home." Perhaps they translate the tone, shooting off a barrage of shrill whistles, which is in turn greeted by ironic applause. As a contest the second goal ends the match - "You're not whistling any more." we sing. underground. A guy with a Manchester United coat pass-We land at Luton at 11pm on Saturday. We miss the last train on Thameslink. Judgement railway is worth the ride. He Night' ebbs away. But we were definitely there. looks at me biankly and flash-

MAJOR WEEKEND FOOTBALL FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK - Preston v Akrinchem 34 Rumotim v Oerlington 35 Scurathorpe v Rotherham 36 Strevesbury v Scarborough 37 Stanenoge v Nayes 38 Stockport v Doricasis* 28 Stockport v Doricasis*

TEAM SHEET

TODAY 3.0 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership Aston Villa v Leicester Blackburn v Chelsea ...

Election v Southamenton Leeds v Liverpoo Manchester Utd v Arsenal Newcastle v West Ham Tottenham v Sunderland 3 Wimbledon v Coventry

Nationwide League First Division

14 Port Vale v Sheffield Ltd 16 Portsmouth v Manchester 16 OPR v Charlton 17 Southend v West Bromwic 18 Swindon v Bernsley

Aston Villa v

Leicester

Last five League matches: Astor

Villa skipper Townsend is ready to play with a broken nose. Goalkeeper Bosnich is still ruled out with a knee

injury so Oakes deputises. Leices-

ter skipper Welsh misses a second

game after a knee operation while goalkeeper Keller plays before fly-

ing out for US international duty.

Man Utd v

Arsenal

but Merson is fit again.

ester WLLWL

Vīlia LLWLW; Leic

FA Cup first round
19 Ashlord v Dagenham & Redbr
20 Blackpool v Wigan
21 Boreham Wood v Rushden 23 Bostol Rovers v Exeter

22 Bristol Rovers v Exeter
24 Bramley v Enfletd
25 Burnley v Lincoln
— Cambridge Utif v Weiling
— Cardit v Hendon
— Carditie v Shepshed
— Chester v Stalybridge
26 Chesterfield v Bury
27 Colchester v Wycombe
— Collyin Bay v Wheshem
(at Wreshem FC)
— Crewe v Kiddermenster
28 Famborough v Barnet
29 Gällingham v Hereford
30 Handepool v York
— Hedsestord v Southport

Chelsea

Last five League matches: Black-burn DLDLW; Chelsea DWJWW.

Blackburn wait for a fitness check on

Greek winger Donis but Chelsea old-boy Le Saux will play his third game since returning from a broken leg. Chelsea are set to univeil new £5m signing Gianluca Zola. The former Par-ma man is named alongside fellow talians Di Matteo and Gianluca Mal.

ma man is named alongside fellow Italians Di Matteo and Gianluca Vial-

Newcastle

West Ham

Injury. United also give a late check micrship leaders, are free from injury to full-back livin (lose). Arsenal are without striker Hartson, who completes a three-metch ban, and have remarked to full-back livin line for a West Ham es out with groin and harnstring.

Last season: 3-0

Last five League matches: Man Last five League matches: New-United WWLLI; Arsenal WWDWD castle WWWLW; West Ham LLWWL

Keane is suspended, but Giggs re- Apart from Shearer, still recovering turns after six matches out with a calf from surgery. Newcastle, the Pre-

Derby v Middlesbrough

Derby v

a doubt over defender Winterburn, added to the squad.

38 Stockport v Doncasus*
- Sudbury Town v Brighton (2.0) ...
39 Swansee v Bristol City Bell's Scottish League Premier Division

Scottish First Division

Second Division

Southampton

Last five League matches: Everton DWWWD; Southampton WDWWD

Tottenham v

Last season: No corresponding for-

Last five League matches: Totten

ham LWWLW; Sunderland LDLWL-

Tottenham could field Sinton, who has

debut for Sunderland."

Last season: No corresponding forume

Last five League matches: Derby LLDUV; Middle

a second match while midfielder Stamp has calf trouble.

Darish international defender Laursen (anide) looks certain to be fit for Darby. Skip-per Stimac is still suspened, so Vates is set to form a three-man central defence with McGrath and Rowett. Middlesbrough skipper Pearson (mack) is Rively to miss

Queen of the South v Hemition . Stennousemuc v Dumbarton Stranger v Ayr.....

Third Division East Stirling v Alloa

TOMORROW FA Carling Premiership Deby Curry v Asoriestrus (4.0) Nationwide League First Division

FA Cup first round Newcastle Town v Notts County (2:0) (at Stoke City FC) T V Whitehat (1_0)

DWWWD; Southampton WDWWD
Ferguson is in line to play a part for
Everton after missing five games. Leeds manager Graham has for him
through a combination of suspension,
and injuly (heee, then calf). Le Tissier
is doubtful for Southampton afterlimping off with an artikle injury in midweek. Striker Watson is set to replace
him while Monkou could come in for
centre-back Dryden (ankle).

Wimbledon v 🥷

Coventry

Last five League matches: Wim-bledon WWWDD; Everton DDDDD McAllister is struggling to shake off an ankle injury. Leonhardsen, Jones and Earle, all rested in midweek, will return while Thatcher, ruled out with a leg injury, will also be in the squad Coventry striker Dublin may play de-

Chance for Palace to narrow the gap

Nationwide League PAUL NEWMAN

If it is goals you want, Burnden Park is the only place to be to-day. Bolton Wanderers and their visitors, Crystal Palace, are not only the top two teams in the First Division but also the country's leading scorers. While Bolton head the table,

Palace, with 39 goals, have scored one more than Colin Todd's team. With Norwich slipping recently, Palace have climbed into second place and would move to within a point of Bolton if they win today.
Although they lost 3-1 at
Birmingham in midweek, Bolton

have an awesome home record, having won eight and drawn one at Burnden Park this season. Todd dismissed the result at St Andrews as "a hiccup" and expects a game full of incident this afternoon. "Palace are an

Danny Wilson is likely to keep an unchanged side as he attempts to preserve the country's only unbeaten away record at

attack-minded and exciting side, Shannon's derby pitch Scottish football

Rab Shannon faces an Edinburgh derby debut for Hibernian against Hearts at Tynecastle today after completing a £100,000 switch from Dundee United_

Shannon, 30, is the second signing in a fortnight by the Hibernian caretaker manager. Jocky Scott, who had worked with Shannon at Dunfermline and Dundee, Shannon's arrival allows Hibs to restore Willie Miller to tight-back, with Shannon expected to take over on the left.

Lying in wait for Hibs today is the derby goals specialist, John Robertson. He scored his 250th goal for Hearts in the last derby and is, ominously for Hibs, on 198 league goals.

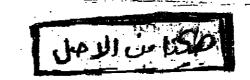
more experienced players to

join the club and Shannon has proved a great defender," said Scott, who recently paid Celtie £250,000 for John Hughes. "Rab felt he wasn't being used to his

full potential at Dunder United." Hearts have Neil McCann ready to return, but the manager Jim Jefferies refuses to reveal his main injury worry, with the mystery man thought to be the goalkeeper, Gilles Rousset, Neil Pointon sits out the derby with a one-match ban as Hearts look to complete three league wins in a row in their last outing before the Coca-Cola Cup final against Rangers tomorrow week.

Aberdeen entertain Dundee United at Pittodrie for the first time in 18 months, while Kilmarnock and Motherwell meet at Rugby Park in an important basement battle, with the sides "We have been looking for level on points in second-bottom place.





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Star-studded cast lace their kinky boots with a size-10 haul

Kinky's boots might have failed to do damage to England's goals against column in Georgia but than will be afforded them by the to a latterday Matthews, clearly record books: they've won just six of shares). "Before the War we had big against column in Georgia, but elsewhere last mechanists and toe their 17 encounters with Italy, the boots with steel plates and toe biggest victory, 4-0, coming in Tirring tools were obviously on the right feet. The Dutch, Yugoslavs and Macedonians blasted 24 goals between them in their World Cup qualifiers, Bury, Walsall and Hardepool out four each page Variations. put four each past York, Scarborough and Peterborough respectively, while Falkirk got their shooting boots on in time to score four in the last seven minutes against rivals Stirling Albion. Peter Van Vossen, anwhile, could have been wearing clogs: his miss in Thursday's Old Firm match was that bad. But the drubbing his Dutch team-mates gave Wales will have left Bobby Gould's boys dreading Turkey at Christmas. England, conversely, will enjoy their Christmas turkey,

and approach the game against Italy in March with more optimism

Sir Stanley Matthews says it was "the best England forward line I ever" played in". But the comprehensiveness of the victory was due in no small part to the revolutionary pair of go-faster boots the Wizard of Dribble was wearing for "that extra edge" (as if he needed one; the joke was that Matthews was so fast he could turn off his bedroom light and be in bed before the room got dark).

Matthews had decided that if he

was going to be quicker than anyone else, he also had to be lighter (a belief the spindly Steve McMa-naman, arguably the nearest thing

biggest victory, 4-0, coming in Turin caps, "Matthews remembers. "I in 1948. No mean feat that - which wanted to wear black rugby boots. was certainly true of a forward line which were lighter, but I was too shy - everyone wore brown boots in those days. But after the War I asked the Yorkshire factory where the boots were made if they could make them lighter. They removed the plates and toe caps and nailed in the studs: later we got screw-in studs. The boots were so thin they never

> studs would come away." Matthews still keeps a pair of those old boots in his car, unceremoniously wrapped in a plastic bag. He was he was "in love with them". "I could fold them in half and put them in my pocket, they were so light." In fact they weighed just 1lb 60z. No wonder Johnny Carey likened playing against

lasted more than five games, the

Olivia Blair



ON SATURDAY

Matthews to "playing against a ghost".

Matthews got £50 from the Co-Op Wholesale Society for endorsing the boots, which seems peanuts compared with deals like the one Ryan Giggs has recently signed with Reebok, worth between 16m and £8m (depending on which

case of them getting too big for their boots, perhaps? Obviously not, for

the locks soon reappeared.
Now Reebok clearly consider Giggs to be a good investment - according to their spokesman, Chris Lewis, "he transcends football's tribal barriers in that, although he plays for United. he's still respected by other fans. He's an idol across the board" - and won't be giving him the boot until well into the 21st century.

So whether they are red (John Fashanu, John Barnes, Stan Colly-more), white (Alan Ball, Paolo di Canio) or even yellow (Herbert Chapman); or whether they're size 12s like Bill Shankly's or tiny size eights like Dwight Yorke's, boots like everything else in football - are

and his boots - when he cut off his flowing locks, infuriating Reebolc a tempt to wrestle the hissest market to wrestle the hissest market and the other boot companies have suspecting parent back a cool £120, or £200 for the ultra-light version. flowing locks, infuriating Reebok; a tempt to wrestle the biggest market share away from Adidas.

As yet, in vain; the biggest seller is still Adidas' Predator Traction boot £99.99), although Umbro's Shearer Speciale (£79.99), the Mizuno Pro SI (£79.99) – as modelled by Jamie Redknapp - the Giggs Pro Sidewinder (£69.99), Diadora's George Weah boots (£85.99) and Nike's Rio (£69.99), responsible One wonders about sales figures for

For the most expensive boots on the market, however, look no further tackle. Defenders sit back, and the Cole Sidewinders... than the feet of Tony Adams, who has just signed a two-year deal for Asics to wear their TSS900s. With all due respect to Adams, perhaps it is lucky

tabloid you believe). Giggs first signed with Reebok in 1993, but looked to have burned his boats — the other boot companies have the other boot companies have burned his boats.—

One presumes that, being a defender, the boots give Adams greater adaptability. But try telling that to Matthews. "Who defends now?" he asks. "In my day we were raiders; it was the defenders' job to stop us. They stuck to us like glue, I remember Mel Hopkins of Spurs following me into my own goal-mouth. I sweated buckets trying to for Ian Wright's brace against Stoke, are close on the Predator's heels. enough, was off to the dressingroom. He replied: 'I'll follow you!'

> when they come up against the player, they just can't do it."
> Well, Sir Stanley always did know

how to put the boot in.

Allner's vision lets 'Kiddy' grow up



Kidderminster visit their mirror image in today's FA Cup tie at Gresty Road. Phil Shaw reports

nly one part of the furslung in the skip when the old architecture of Kidderminster Harriers' home gave cess has been founded on way to plush new offices, chang- Gradi's ability to spot and deing rooms, reception area, velop talent in players as young restaurant and bar last summer, as seven or eight. There are His name is Graham Allner, clear parallels with the set-up writes Phil Shaw.

move managers with all the sub- course for the Football League tlety of cowboy builders ripping place they were so harshly de-out fittings, Allner has become nied in 1994 because of the stanout fittings, Ailner has become a fixture at Aggborough. At the dard of their stadium. start of this month he began his 14th year in charge of the road as Crewe, though it's not Worcestershire club, a reign so easy to do as a non-League unrivalled in Vauxhall Conference history.

Today, the FA Cup's enduring capacity for coincidence pits the 47-year-old Brummie against the only member of his profession who has survived and thrived longer at one club. By the time Kidderminster hared Allner from the now-defunct AP Learnington, Dario Gradi was already six months into his tenure at Crewe Alexandra.

The achievements of the men occupying the respective dugouts at Gresty Road bear witness not only to the value of continuity, and of a patient hoard, but also to the vision of Aliner and Gradi. Both were determined to create a club whose involvement with the community extended beyond relieving to be judged on his form for them of their cash every other Kidderminster.

Crewe, festering away in the niture avoided being former Fourth Division for two decades, are again vying for promotion to the First. Their suc-Aliner has evolved at Kidder-In an era when chairmen re- minster, who are themselves on

"We've gone down the same club," Allner said. "I think we're the only one in the Centres of Excellence scheme, and we've got well over a hundred boys attached to the club.

"I always say to people: 'If you want to see this football club at work, at its best, go to the Astroturf when all the kids come on a Thursday night'." Gradi's production line of

prodigies - from David Platt through Rob Jones to Neil Lennon — is legendary. Allner has raised £300,000 by selling home-grown players like Richard Forsyth, Paul Jones and Steve Lilwall to League clubs, and he currently has a forward, Lee Hughes, attracting six-fig-ure bids. Hughes has recently rejected offers to train with Premiership teams, preferring

Lee feels it would be dis-



Graham Aliner this month began his 14th year in charge of the GM Vauxhall Conference club Kidderminster Harriers

as sub.°

"And since we're in the black. for the first time I can remember, there's no pressure to sell. He's capable of playing at the highest level eventually, but he wants to see us into the League

(Allner had just said how much Hughes had matured when, to our mutual mirth, we noticed a photo of him, sticking his tongue out à la Gazza, on the cover of the Harriers fanzine The Keeper Looks Like

Kidderminster are three points clear at the Conference summit. With a swish new stand in place, they had the requisite ground-grading to be accepted into the Third Division even before the latest refurbishments. After three Wemblev finals in the FA Trophy, two Weish Cup finals, one championship and a run to the last 16 of the FA Cup,

ruptive," Allner explained. promotion would be Allner's the Welsh Cup, which raised light of his Kidderminster ca- overnight stay before a match crowning glory.

"We're a League club in all but status now," he said, though they were bottom of the table when he arrived in the carpetmaking town. "The short-term aim was to get out of trouble. In the long term I wanted to build a top non-League club, like an Altrincham or a Telford, who were the Manchester United of our level.

"The facilities were very basic and we had just 15 players with no reserve team. Our average gate was 600 (it is now 2,200), and there was a cycle track round the pitch which meant there was no atmosphere. When the wind was blowing up here on a Saturday afternoon, it was desperate.

"On my first day we lost at home to Willenhall in the Staffs Senior Cup. But on the Saturday we beat Machynlleth 9-1 in

spirits a bit, and I remember saying to my assistant: That lad doesn't look bad'. It was Paul Davies, who's still here as player-coach having played [checks programme] 596 games plus 26

Davies, the Conference's alltime record scorer, is one of a dwindling band of survivors from the title campaign. After two seasons in which a horrendous injury list and a reaction to the anticlimax of being kept down blunted their challenge, Allner, by now working full-time as manager, set about rebuilding on the pitch. His probable front three at Crewe - Hughes, James McCue (from Partick Thistle) and Neil Doherty (ex-Birmingham) - exemplify the

new "Kiddy". Mention of Birmingham makes Allner misty-eyed over what he describes as the high-

there three seasons ago. "I remember watching the lads and the chairman (Dave Reynolds) run over to the Spion Kop. The Blues fans rose to them. To see that, at the club I'd always supported myself, made my spine

tingle.
I go flat immediately after a game, and it was the same at St Andrew's. I don't go silly until five hours afterwards when I've got a few drinks down me. I still live in the city and it was fantastic being out that night. Every now and then I'd look up and there I was, being interviewed on Sky."

There have been dark mo-ments, too. After a Trophy defeat at Yeovil in 1992, angry fans rounded on him "big time". Allner also squirms at the thought Reynolds to sanction an

reer, the third-round victory at Barrow, late in the same season. "We lost 5-1 and ended up having to win our last game at Gateshead to stay up.

By another coincidence, Kidderminster's last comparable defeat was inflicted by Crewe in August. "We lost 6-1 at home, and they were scintillating in going 4-0 up by half-time. But you can't really compare a pre-season friendly to a cup-tie. At least I hope not!

"I'm looking forward to going there because they're a model of the kind of club we want to be, both in the way they re set up and how they play. And the upper Second Division is something we can realistically aspire to. If we get the principles and the structure of the place right, and don't spend more than we take in, there's no of how he persuaded a dubious reason why we can't gradually

Bebeto the Real focus of attention

Bebeto could hardly have picked a better debut match for his reappearance in Spain, as his new side Seville play Real Madrid tomorrow.

But the return of the Brazilian World Cup striker – who was greeted by 7,000 Seville fans on arrival - will not be the only point of interest in a game that brings together teams with a tradition of swapping both players and coaches.

Jose Antonio Camacho, the Seville manager, is a former Real stalwart, while Real's leading goalscorer, the Croatian striker Davor Suker was until last season the darling of the crowd at Seville's Sanchez Piziuan stadium.

The euphoria surrounding the signing of Bebeto has produced 3,000-strong crowds at Seville training sessions in scenes reminiscent of Diego Maradona's ill-fated season at the club in 1992-93. Bebeto, who spent four highly successful seasons with Deportivo La Coruña, had made no secret of his desire to return to Spain. "I and my family feel very happy here." he said.

Another Brazilian international, the Real Madrid defender Roberto Carlos, is full of praise for Bebeto. "He scores goals, and what's more he has ability and intelligence. For me. he's the perfect player," he said.

Roberto Carlos was one of several Real players who defended the Real coach, Fabio Capello, during the week after consecutive goalless draws at home. "We're to blame if we don't produce spectacular play," he said.

Real's problems worsened on Tuesday when Alvaro Benito was badly injured in Spain's Under-21 game against Slovakia. The striker will miss the rest of the season, increasing the likelihood that Capello will look for reinforcements when the Spanish transfer market

reopens in December. For the Seville game Capello welcomes back the Balkan strike-force of Davor Suker and Predrag Mijatovic, who scored for Croatia and Yugoslavia respectively in World Cup action last weekend.

Suker has promised he will not celebrate if he scores against his old club on Sunday, taking a leaf out of the book of Gabriel Moya - who seemed to beg the forgiveness of Seville fans after getting on the score-sheet for

Valencia carlier this season. Camacho also found himself in need of clemency after beginning his career at Seville with just one win in nine games. But he has turned things around with three consecutive wins and will be hoping for a repeat of last season's encounters with Real.

Then managing Espanyol, Camacho humiliated his old team with categorical victories in both league and cup which prompted the end of Jorge Valdano's time in charge at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

Uruguay have sucked their national coach. Hector Nunez, in the wake of a defeat by Chile which left them struggling in the South American World Cup qualifying competition. "They didn't give me specific reasons. They told me it was over. Because of the results, I believe,"

Nunez said. Nunez's dismissal came on the same day that Venezuela parted company with their coach, Rafael Santana, although in that case it was not clear whether Santana jumped

Tuesday's 1-0 defeat in Santiago left Uruguay seventh in the South American group, from which the top four teams qualify for the World Cup finals. They have won two games and lost three, the results including a shock home defeat by Paraguay. But the contest is close and Uruguay are only two

. .

The other Newcastle dream of credibility and cash

it was a wind-up. Enquiring who his team had drawn in the first round of the FA Cup, the Notts County manager had been assured: "Newcastle, away." Even for a side struggling in

the Second Division, facing Newcastle Town, of the North West Counties League, ought to he as hig a mismatch as if County were visiting the Premiership leaders themselves. Sadly, police requirements and financial imperatives mean the

At first Colin Murphy thought days of small non-League venues staging such ties are becoming scarcer. To Murphy's relief, no doubt, the game goes ahead at Stoke's Victoria Ground tomorrow.

driver. He spoke for all Cup dreamers when he outlined

The Staffordshire club need a 6,000 gate, 60 times their average, just to break even. The biggest thing for us is not to be eight down after 27 minutes," said their manager, Glyn Chamberlain, a Tesco delivery

Newcastle's priorities: "To come out of it with a lot of credibility

and a few quid." The memory of Marine's 11-2 mauling by Shrewsbury last November will play on the minds of many minnows. Yet recent history shows that the eight Football League clubs

opposition are also at risk. The managed by the former Telford giant-killer Mark Hancock. His such meetings over the past five

Macclesfield are probably favourites to beat Rochdale, despite having to give a debut to Andy Oakes, 19, in goal. Walsall will be under similar presfacing Vauxhall Conference sure at Northwich, now

principal marksman, Delwyn Humphries, scored against Preston in 1994 to take Kidderminster into the fifth round. Preston themselves face Altrincham, who need one win to equal Yeovil's record of 17

Phil Shaw assesses who the giant-killers may be as the Farnborough, and Cambridge's League clubs begin their FA Cup campaign new manager, Roy McFarland, should be warned that Welling's attack contains the obligatory Cambridge reject, Ollie Mora. Mark O'Kane, manager of

Shepshed Dynamo, of the Dr Martens League (Midland Di-vision), has dreamt he scores the winner at Carlisle: shame be no longer plays. Sudbury, from the Southern Division, look more capable of an upset, if

out two years running by Woking, will do well to survive at scribed, with Hull also on a hiding to nothing against Whitby at Scarborough tomorrow. Consett, away to Mansfield, have conceded only one goal in

eight matches in this year's Cup; Morecambe, who travel to Boston, have amassed 23. Meanwhile, the collision of Torquay (8-4 losers at Walsall in last season's competition) and Luton (thrashed 7-1 by Grimsby) is surely a banker no-score

Paul Haarhuis, of the Netherlands, in

the Phoenk/ATP World Doubles Cham-pionship in Hardord, Connecticut, yes-terday. After dropping the first set and

pulling even with the second in a tie-break, the top-ranked Australians fought off five match-points at 5-6 in the de-

SPORTING DIGEST AUSTRALIAN PGA CHAMPIONSHIP (Syd-

MEN'S WORLD AMATEUR TEAM CHAM-PONSHP (Carmone, Philippines) Leading second-round scores: 409 Australia 203 206, 429 Finland 208 210; Carada 213 205, 420 Philippines 210 210; Sweden 210 210, 421 Britain 213 208, 422 United States 211 211, 423 New Zealand 215 208; Spain

215 210. What is the state of t

tee hockey NHL: Boston 2 Pitisburgh 1 (ot); Buffalo 5 Colorado 4; Varcouver 3 New Jessey 0; Washington 5 Philadebinb 2; Caligny 2 Chicago 1 (ot); St Louis 5 Tampa Bay 3: Hartford 2 Phoenik 1; Los Angales 4 Toronio 1. TESA BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS (GU Momen's short programme: 1 (Swindon) 0.5; 2 J Arrowsmith (Swi

Motor racing The former champion Will Hoy is to drive for Ford in next year's British Tour-ing Car Championship. The 43-year-old Londoner's switch from the Williams-Renault team, with whom he has spent two seasons and won three races, is seen as a move which underlines Ford's determination to speed back into the winner's circle after a lacklustre 1996 season. "The signs are all good" said Hoy on his two-year contract, "Ford

Team Ford Repsol have reforged a suc-cessful partnership by signing Armin Schwarz, of Germany, as No 2 to the double world champion, Carlos Sainz, for 1997. The two drivers were teammates at Toyota when Sainz won the world title in 1990 and 1992. "I'm hap-py to be joining forces with Carlos once again and I'm looking forward very much to working with him as we launch Ford's latest Escort in the World Rally Championship," said 33-year-old Schwarz. Martin Whitaker, Ford's director of European Motorsport, sald: "I'm sure that their strong working relationship will be a great asset to us."

John Spencer has resigned as chairmen of snooker's ruling body less than a morah before he was due to seek re-election. A statement from the World Professional Billiards and Shooker Association confirmed Spencer's decision to quit before the sport's annual meeting in Bristol on 19 December. Only lest week during the World Cup in Banglink the WPBSA refused to confirm if Spencer had been asked to stand down prior to a board meeting in the Thai capital. The three-times world champion from Radcliffe, who took over from John Virgo, refused to explain his reasons for standing down.

Todd Woodbridge and Mark Wood-forde, of Australia, pulled off a dramatic 4-6, 7-6, 7-6 win over Jacco Ettingh and

lor 6-4 6-1.
ROUND-ROBEN PHOENDY/ATP TOUR
WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPIONSKEP (Hartford, US): S Lareau (Can) and Alex O'Brien
(US) bx L Prinek (Bel) and B Taibot (SA) 62 6-3; B Black (Zm) and G Connel (Can)
bt J Bjorhman (Swe) and N Kuta (Swe) 6-3
1-6 6-4; T Whoodinidge (Auc) and M Whoodforde (Aus) bt J Eitragh (Neth) and P
Haarhuls (Neth) 4-6 7-6; M Knowles
(Ban) and D Mestor (Can) bt T Knonemann
(US) and D Mestor (Can) bt T Knonemann
(US) and D Mestor (Can) bt T Knonemann

The same of the sa

off fine match-points at 5-6 in the de-ciding set against the fourth-ranked Dutch pair. ADWANTA CHAMPIONSHIP WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Philadelphia) Singles, sec-ond round: S Graf (Ger) by A Frazier (US) 6-2 6-1: J Novotra (Cz Rep) by L McNei (US) 6-4 7-5; B Paulis (Aut) by Z Gartson-Jack-son (US) w/o; Y Basuk (Judon) by K Po (US) 6-4 6-4; A Miller (US) by M Shaughnessy (US) 4-6 6-2 7-5. CULARDAN DERECT BRITISH NATIONAL (US) 4-6 6-2 7-5.
GIARDAN DRECT BRITISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHPS (leiford) Men's singles quartes-finals: T Henman (Oxon) bt N Godd (Ason) 6-1 6-3; P Robinson (Norhants) bt A Richardson (Lines) 1-6 7-6 9-7; G Rusedsić (unatt) bt T Spinks (Norfold) 6-3 6-0; C Wildinson (Hants & OW) bt J Delgado (Warwicks) 2-6 6-0 9-7. Doubles semi-finals D Sepsint (Surrey) & A Foster (Staffs) bt J Betes (Surrey) & Herman 6-1 6-3.

Mannant Spinks semi-finals: C Tangri (Door) or was pushed.

(Sutrey) or Halland B-L D-S. Welmen's singles semi-finals: C Taylor (Oxon) by C Wood (Sussex) 4-6 6-2 7-5; J Pullin (Sussex) bt J. Ahl (Devon) 6-1 6-4. Welman's doubles semi-finals S-A Suddell (Dorset) & M Walmuright (Essex) bt J Wood (Marx) & Tay-lor 6-4 6-1.

points behind fourth-placed

Rackethall

Basketball
The Spanjah seem Perness Velencie have sacied an American player Merquess Bragg after he tested postive for ophodine in a nutrice drug test. "It's impossible," I don't disk and I baren't wen ten meritanen "seid Paren view. paken any medication." said Bregs, who was playing for Pamesa on a tempo-nary contract. In the past saveral other Americans have tested positive for ephedime, which is becomed in Spain but s widely used in influenza remedies in S WOOTY LAND IN THE MARKET THE THREE THE LINE OF THE STREET THE ST

SHEFFELD SHIELD (Fluit day of four) Mel-bourne: Victoria 270 for 5 (0 Jones 12210). (Havey 70) v South Australia. In Sydney. New South Wales 274 for 7 (5 Wangh 105. N Toylor 53) V Quantified. In Partic 18-manis. 122 for 1 U Gorden. D Nets 48no) v YOUR NATCH (Plet department break: House Sound President's 2.179 (F de Villers 5-46); South Brige 74 for 5; general (SAMPIONE YMOTHY (Sherjeb, 1962); Parkitte 150 at our (45.5 capes); New Zeoland 1154Fout (36.5 capes); New Zeoland 1154Fout (36.5 capes); Pelvistan win

Football The game's world governing body. Fits, perfectly announced that Gueternala's home games in the World Cop will be staged in Los Angales and El Salvador following last month's standam stampeds in Guaternala City which left 84 peoole dead. The former England and Tottenham de-

The former England and Tottersham defender, Graham Roberts, has rejected an offerto manage the GM Vaudiati Conference side Kettering. The Yeovil player-menager has accepted an improved contract to stay with his present club. TRANSFERS: Peter Hoteroft (midister) Secton to Swindon hadisclosed fee); Seets Mana (midister) Bournemouth to West Ham (midister) Bournemouth to West Ham (midister) Bournemouth to West Ham (midister) Eryston (1250,000); Steven Wests (defender) Peterborough to Dunjamino (1655,000); Sriam Grand (midister) Hoss County to Arbreth (undefeded fee). UDAN TRANSFERS John Steridam (midister) LOAN TRANSPER John Sheriden (midfields: Sheff Wed to Bolton.

Shelf Wad to Botton.
THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Bell's Socious League Premier Division: Ceitic Charges I (Luciup 7). Portins League First Division: West Bromach Albion O Sheffield that 0 for Insistence Town). Fa Youth Cap First round: Charlen 6 Austry 1: Reading 2 Dulauch Hames 1. Durch League: PSV Endhown 2 (Stem 45, Marcelo 55) Speta (charlen 1 (Van der Hoeven 17). Relian Cap Quarter-Smel first leg: Napon 1 (Agneti 2) Lano O.

Great British are sixth after two rounds of the men's World American Rem Championship in the Philippines. Australia yesteriaty appet de 23-under-particular of 409 to open us a nine-stroke lead ouer Canada and Finland. The Philippines and Sweden both scotted 12-under-par 420s, while British followed up their opening 213 with a second round 208 for a total of 421, one stroke ahead of the detending champions, the United States.

The Open Championship winner, Tom Lehman, hit a tournament record 10-under par to take the PGA Grand Starn of Gotf in Hawaii. Lehman started the depleted final round of nine holes with depicted trails found of the roles with a one-stroke lead over the US Open win-ner, Stave Jones, and the Masters cham-pion, Nick Faido, but he had a birdle at the 394-yard 10th hole to open a two-stroke gap that he held at the thin Constitution with his calette under 100 ish. Coupled with his eight-under 100 over the first 27 holes yesterday, Lehman finished the 36-hole event with rounds of 68 and 66 for 134.

Barry Lane has pulled out of England's two-men teem for the World Cup of Golf in Cape Town next week complaining of "mental and physical thredness". Kent's Peter Mitchell will join Jim Payne inst Lane, who began the year by winning the first prize in the Andersen Consult-ing World Chempionship in Anzona, fin-ished only 76th on the European tour Order of Ment this sesson, a drop of

Order of Merit this season, a drop of 68 places.

DUNILOP PROENIX TOURNAMENT (hityazaid, Jupan) Leading second-round sceres (lapen unless stated). 135 M Cash 68 67: L Westwood (Eng) 67 68. 136 T Weston (US) 66 70. 138 H Meshai 69 69: N Ozaid 67 71. 139 Y Kanelso 69 70. 41M M Revamura 73 68: D Ishii (US) 72 69: Y Salamoto 72 69; R Gamez (US) 72 69: 42 C Franco (Par) 72 77: T Nakajima 71. 71: S Olacis 71. 71: F Funk (US) 70 72. 343 T Ozaid 73 70: M A Jimenez 75: Nakajima 71. 72: L Muse (US) 71 72: L Nakajima 71. 72: L Muse (US) 71 72: L Nakajima 71. 37: Salected gualificars: 185 C Rocca (II) 73 72. 148 T Bjorn (Den) 72 74. Salected gualificars: 182 J Nickeus (US) 78 74.

AUSTRALIAN PGA CHAMPONISHP (Syd-ney) Leading second-round scores: 138 C Gray (Aus) 68 70; J Cooper (Aus) 70 68; P Lonard (Aus) 69 69, 139 W Riley (Aus) 66 73; J Helly (US) 73 66, 140 R Byrd (US) 65 73; A Painter (Aus) 71 69, 141, 8 Roach (Aus) 66 75; D Small (NZ) 72 69, Select-ed, 143 6 Evints (GB) 72 71; D Howell (GB) 73 70, 145 A Rogars (GB) 72 73; B Jack-son (GB) 68 77, 146 P McCinley (Irl) 71 75; D Clarke (GB) 69 77, 347 D Wasson (GB) 72 75.

(Swe) 69 72; M Hjorth (Swe) 71 70; K Parker-Gregory (LS) 71 70, 242 J Stephenson (Aus) 69 73; R Welton (US) 70 72; L Lambert (Aus) 70 72; R Hetherington (Aus) 70 72; M Lunn (Aus) 87 74; K Welto (Aus) 73 69; D Reid (GB) 73 60; Selected: 144 J Morley (GB) 72 72, 348 C Hall (GB) 72 74, 347 D Barnard (GB) 74 73, 149 H Wedsworth (GB) 76 73; K Marshad (GB) 74 75.

League scalps. Barnet, knocked

vost (East Killbride) 1.5: 4 T Se (Oxford) 2.0; 5 G Pepavasitou (East Kilbrid 2.5; 8 K Alan (Dundonald) and F Salim (Ron ford) 3.0.

in the way the touring car programme is structured. A great deal of progress has been made with the Mondeo so far

At home at Highbury Dennis Bergkamp talks to Glenn Moore, page 28

Bosnich's 'act of stupidity' costs £1,000

NICK DUXBURY

Mark Bosnich's Hitler-style salute to Tottenham Hotspur supporters was yesterday labelled "an act of stupidity" by the Football Association, who fined the Aston Villa goalkeeper £1,000, but decided against suspending him.
The 24-year-old Bosnich.

who declared that "common sense had prevailed" was found guilty of misconduct by a threeman FA commission chaired by Geoff Thompson of the Sheffield and Hallamshire FA. at Lancaster Gate. The commission, in addition to the fine, severely censured the Australian, warned him as to his future conduct and ordered him to pay the costs of the hearing hich lasted an hour and a half.

The pesture during the match at White Hart Lane on 12 October caused outrage that was exacerbated because of Spurs' large Jewish following. However, the player insisted that it was merely a prank that misfired.

Announcing the verdict, Steve Double, the FA spokesman, said: "The commission heard that Bosnich had been subjected to abusive chanting from the home crowd before the incident

Bosnich told the commission that his gesture to the crowd was intended as a Basil Fawlty-style joke. He was unaware of Tottenham's Jewish following and was devastated at the reaction to the incident. He stated that he abhorred racism. The commission decided

that, while Bosnich's action was an act of stupidity, it was not his intention to cause offence or be insulting. He apologised publicly, quickly and profusely."

Bosnich was relieved with the outcome. "What we have seen he said. "Let's hope I can now put this incident behind me and go forward with my career."

Asked about the fine, he said: "It's time to put this behind me. There are far more important things going and to be honest I'm sick of hearing my

"I abhor racism. The best thing to come out of this is that may be it has raised the awareness of racism. The PFA [the players' union] have got an anti-racism campaign under-way and I would like to put my full support behind that."

The fine will not stop Bosnich enjoying banter with supporters. "I still definitely hope to have a rapport with fans. Sometimes in life when you do things wrong the best thing to do is to come out openly and to explain and say sorry. I'm 24. I made a mistake



Mark Bosnich's attempt at humour at Spurs backfired Photograph: Action Images

and that's the way it goes." Brian Little, the Villa manager, was also satisfied. "It has been a fair hearing," he said.

However, the book is not closed on the incident as Bosnich, who misses today's home game against Leicester City with a long-standing knee injury, is still waiting to hear if he will face police action. A report has been sent to the Crown Prosecution Service.

Francis Lee has tried to appease Manchester City's frustrated supporters by insisting that Georgi Kinkladze is not on his way out of the club, despite reports claiming that the Georgian midfielder is unsettled.

Lee came under fire from sections of the crowd as City slipped to a dismal 3-2 home defeat at the hands of Oxford on Wednesday night, with hundreds of fans besieging the front entrance to call for the chairman's removal after seeing their team slip into the bottom six of the First Division.

When you hear the things that were said it hurts," said Lee, who took over in January 1994, "But I have made a large investment in this club and I will not be walking away. If I walk away from it now, I would be admitting defeat and missing out on what could be a much better period and brighter future for the club." On Kinkladze, Lee said:

"Gio is very happy at Man-chester City and I think he is very loyal to the club in staying here. But, so far as his career is concerned, if we were unable to reclaim Premiership status for next year we would have to think again in the boy's best in-

"I do think he will stay this season. We have had no offers for him and he thinks that some of the things that are being written in newspapers are complete nonsense."

Cantona's galling prospect

Much as his compatriots once stormed the Bastille for a useful away win, Arsène Wenger will today be striving to take Manchester United's Old Trafford fortress and further undermine Eric Cantona's position as the English game's most influential Frenchman.

The differences between United's captain and the new Arsenal manager expose national stereotyping as the nonsense it is. While the price of Cantona's creativity is often a volatility which has reared its unacceptable head again of late, Wenger has brought a cultured, almost scientific approach to Highbury.

Arsenal's prospects of inflicting a fifth successive defeat on the champions may hinge on game plan amid the frenzy of a packed stadium. Similarly, it will be intriguing to see whether Alex Ferguson has used the hiatus caused by an international weekend to revamp United's tactics, especially in terms of get-ting more from their troubled

ON MONDAY

20-page sports section

DOWN

What can be awfully

Cheese found in girl's

Places where calling

cards could help in making contacts? (9,

ter, according to

Celtic language (5)

William (7)

tedious – onset of

oneliness (8)

bed (7)

Phil Shaw considers the role of three Frenchmen whose joie de vivre will influence the top of the Premiership today

Wenger's track record and personality, not to mention the fact that he inherited the country's meanest defence, make it improbable that he will come out with all Gunners blazing. When he promised this week to attack, he was referring to those who sought to smear his private life. His policy this afternoon is likely to be one of counter-

The struggle for supremacy between Cantona and another enfant de la patrie, Patrick Vieira, could be crucial. If Cantona and Wenger represent wildly contrasting strands of with the best of both worlds.

"He's highly motivated and fights for every ball," Wenger says, "but he also plays very

Ferguson is ready to recall Ryan Giggs, who has made only a brief appearance as substitute since a calf injury in September. Roy Keane is suspended, which reduces United's options for tracking Vieira's surges between the penalty areas, but may be just as well given his flawed temperament and the fractious history of this fixture. The match will be beamed back to London for a closedcircuit television showing before the North Bank.

The "House Full" signs will also be posted at Newcastle and Leeds. The Premiership pacesetters, who are confident that Alan Shearer will have recovered from his groin operation weekend, take on West Ham in search of a ninth victory in 10 games. The Hammers' squad are to undergo special visual tests at an Essex opticians on Monday; if Newcastle can again stoke up their crowd, they may

need their ears examined too.

from top, to Leeds, fourth from bottom and with the division's most disillusioned fans, according to a new survey, is of critical importance to both clubs. Leeds are being linked with everyone from teenaged tiros at Tranmere to Swiss centre-backs in Sardinia, vet George Graham again sends out a side comprised of Howard Wilkinson's signings.

Ian Rush, stuck in the worst oalless streak of his career, is likely to have to break his duck from his new, makeshift role on the right of midfield. "I've been looking forward to this match said. "It'll be a special occasion,

but also a strange one for me. Humiliated by the basement club, Blackburn, in their last League outing, Liverpool are only too aware that their black November a year ago meant they were always fighting to The visit of Liverpool, fourth make up lost ground. The pos-

sibility of Jamie Redknapo's being left out for Patrik Berger is sure to alert those who may feel better able to offer a regular place.
The 13-day break since their

first success denied Blackburn the opportunity to sustain their momentum. Nor would they have chosen to resume against Chelsea, who must decide whether to stay with the team who won at Old Trafford or give Gianfranco Zola his first taste of the British hurly-burly.

It is a safe bet that Zola, newly arrived from Parma, was upfamiliar with the name of the carctaker manager at Ewood Park. However, Tony Parkes was asked yesterday by Robert Coar, the Blackburn chairman, e un the top ever though he does not want it on a permanent basis.

"He'll stay in control as he has for the past three weeks, and neither Tony nor the players have any problems with this," Coar said, in what sounded ominously like the dreaded

Evodus 1

Nortis la

Johansson apology in race row Lennart Johansson, the presi- this lot get in a bad mood it Uefa moved swiftly to play dent of Uefa, European foot- won't be so funny."

ball's governing body, made a public apology yesterday as he hansson as swearing. His releged racist remarks he made following a recent trip to South

The row was caused by a lengthy interview Johansson gave to the Swedish daily Aftonbladet, which quoted him using the Swedish word which translates as "darky" or "blackie". Johansson was alleged to have used the phrase when discussing events at a meeting to discuss holding the 2006 World Cup in Africa.

"When I got to South Africa the whole room was full of blackies and it's dark when they sit down all together," the interview quoted Johansson as saving. "What's more it's no fun when they're angry. I thought if in Fifa," he said.

No. 3146. Saturday 16 November

Friday's solution

The interview also quoted Joi storm of criticism in Sweden. Johansson, responding while on holiday in Germany, did not deny making

swearing so many times but that doesn't affect the contents. I cannot recall using the term "blackie", but on the other hand I can't exclude it." he said. "I am not a racist. I apologise to anyone who interpreted it [the interview] as if I was one."

Johansson insited that he is.

not a racist. "Everyone who knows me knows I am not the way I have been described. Quite the contrary. I have many coloured friends, not the least

down the significance of the remarks. Its spokesman, Massimo Gonnella, claimed there had tween Johansson and the journalist concerned. Gonnella said: "He did the

interview, no-one is denying this. But apparently between him and the journalist there has been some kind of misunderstanding. That is where the problems are. There were probably mistakes on both sides. He has a joking manner. Maybe this was the problem, maybe the journalist didn't understand what he was trying to say."

Even so, the remarks are unlikely to help Johansson, the 67-year-old vice-president of Fifa, in his campaign to replace Joao Havelange, its 81-year-old

ACROSS

Reacting to irritation by withdrawing? (10)
Plan guide always carries

(4) 10 Landlord's place suitable for resident? (5)

11 It's stupid reversing action

positions (3-6)

of piston in intermediate

Priest from Italy the Span-ish will introduce (3)

Count number of trade

union leaders taking part in summit (3, 2) 14 West Indian entertainer's

opening in Barbican, perhaps? (9)
15 Party occasion when union card's out of order? (7, 7)
18 Where bottom line of bank

balance is found? That's

putting it mildly (14)
Toper imbibing last of gin
with lemon slices, apt to

drop off.? (9)

24 Father always reading poetry, relatively liberal (5)

25 Stuff that's turned over as

spoil (3)
26 Dire night out incorporating drunken spree (9)
27 Practice suggested by

South African? (5)

29 Event that's exciting on

tenth lap? (10)

Frankfurter abandoned by

Crack troops stationed be-

side hospital window? Sort

on E14 5BL. Picase use the box nur

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday; ceive hardbocked copies of the new Oxford Dictionary of Quotations, Answe and winners' manues will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P.O. Box 4018, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Who

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Henman and Rusedski close in on the final

Tennis DERRICK WHYTE

reports from Telford

Britain's two leading players, Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, moved closer to a meeting in tomorrow's final when both eased through the quarter-finals of the British National Cham-

Crimes in domestic pionships here yesterday. Henman beat Nick Gould of settings probed by one lot of policemen (9) Low point reached by North American di-Bristol, 6-1, 6-3, in 65 minutes, while Rusedski defeated the 21-year-old Norfolk player Tom Spinks, 6-3, 6-0, in six minutes un-Bar-room (7) Worker carrying dis-ease is not on the der the hour. It is difficult to see either being beaten in today's premises (6) Only allowed cheese semi-finals, especially as their op-ponents had hard matches yesand biscuits for terday. Paul Robinson, who will take on Rusedski in a battle of

dessert? (9, 5)

16 Piece of legislation requires presentation (9)

17 Veterinarian with time left-handers, saved three match points at 6-7 in the final set be-. fore beating another left-hander. to take care of fish (8) Andrew Richardson, 1-6, 7-6, 9-7. 19 Breakage of Meissen will bring retribution after 2hr 32min on court. See something re-moved from Glouces-

Chris Wilkinson, the British No 3 who now meets Henman, played a similar match against Jamie Delgado of Maidenhead, winning 2-6, 6-0, 9-7 in 2hr 19min. He saved a match point 21 Things vouchsafed in theatre, like fateful date in March? (6) when 4-5 down in the third. Cancel article in old

Henman and Rusedski stressed how relaxed they are this week but both admit that should they meet in the final. there will be no holds barred. They have met twice before, with Henman beating Rusedski in three sets in the final here last year and then defeating him 7-6. 7-5 in the Czech Open in • Ostrava last month.

Rusedski said: "I've worked out a plan with my coach, Brian Teacher, on the best way of

playing Tim but I'm saying nothing. If we do meet in the fi-nal you'll have the chance to see

if the plan works." Henman insisted: "I would like to win the tournament again but I'm not losing any sleep over it. There has been healthy rivalry in my two previous meetings with Greg and he has not enjoyed losing. But we still have to win another match before we can think about the final."

Henman and Jeremy Bates. the holders, were beaten 6-1, 6-3 in the semi-finals of the men's doubles by Danny Sapsford of Surrey and Stoke's Andrew Foster. The result means Bates, winner of the men's singles six times and the doubles seven times, has played his last match in the championships as he insists this is his last appearance in the Nationals.

The women's singles final, to be played today, will be between two 21-year-old left-handers, Claire Taylor of Banbury and Julie Pullin from Sussex. Taylor will start as favourite after beating the defending champion, Clare Wood of Sussex, 4-6, 6-2 7-5, but Pullin, who defeated Lucie Ahl of Devon, 6-1, 6-4 will not lack support of her own.

Pullin had a comfortable victory, leading by a set and 5-1 be-fore Ahl delayed the end by winning three successive games but Taylor might easily have lost. Wood, who has won the title three times, led 5-3 in the final set and served for the match at 5-4. But Taylor rose to the occasion, breaking Wood to love for 5-5 and theo taking the next two games to 30.

Results, Digest, page 29

A completely different weekeno and much claser than you think A unique city with a related atmosphere that's vibrant, friendly and easy going. short break winter toeekend including accommodation with Thomson CityBreaks in conjunction with LE SHUTTLE, from only £49. (You can't get more easy going than that!) ANSWER THOMSON **City***Breaks*

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